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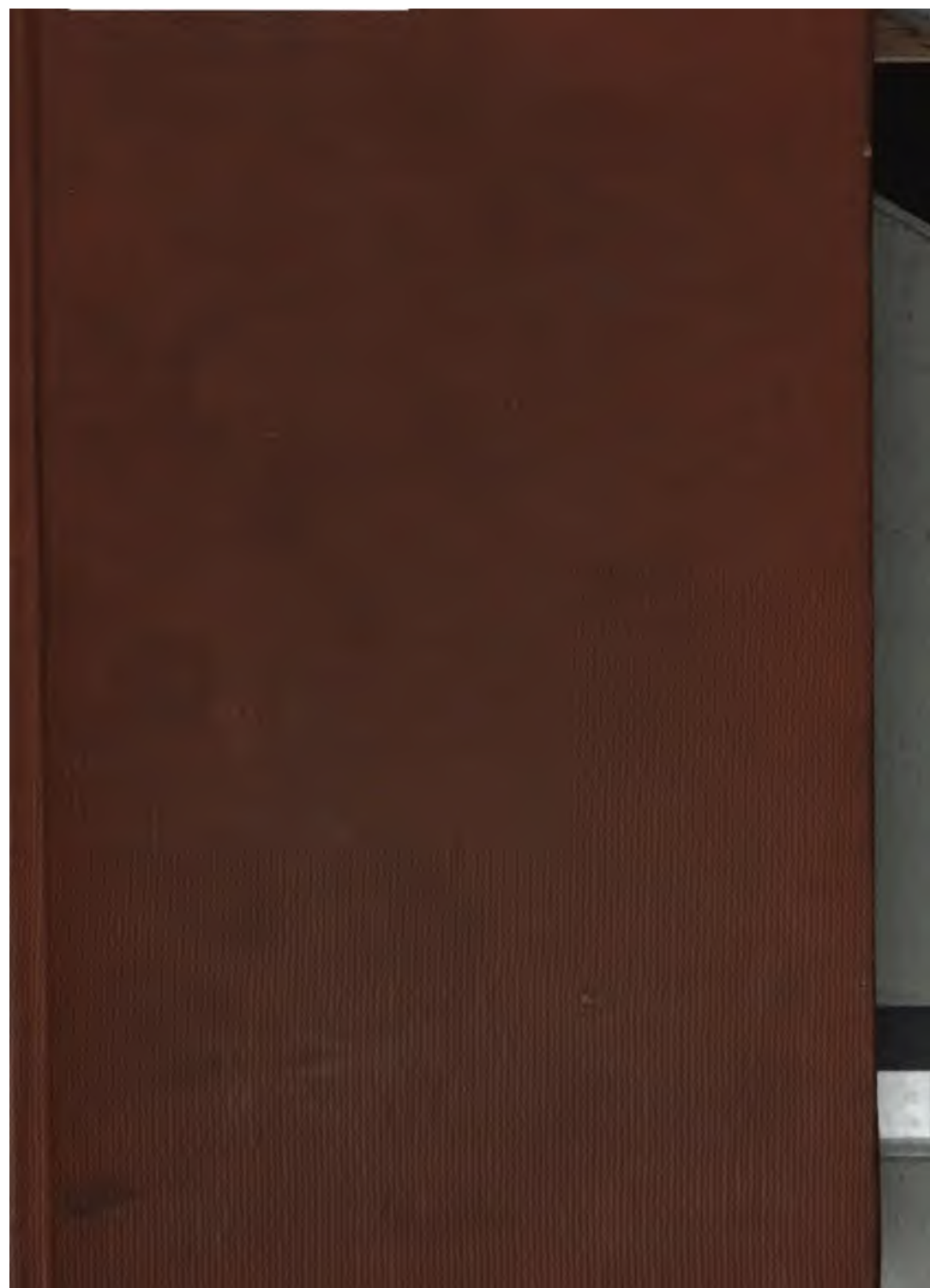
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THE
P L A Y S
OF
WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE.

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THE
P L A Y S
OF
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OF EXPLANATORY AND HISTORICAL NOTES
From the most eminent Commentators;
A History of the Stage, a Life of Shakspeare, &c.
BY ALEXANDER CHALMERS, A. M.

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IN NINE VOLUMES.

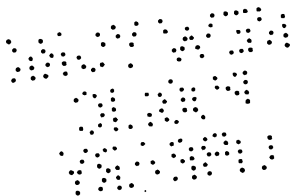
VOLUME VI.

CONTAINING
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KING RICHARD III.
KING HENRY VIII.
TROIILUS AND CRESSIDA.

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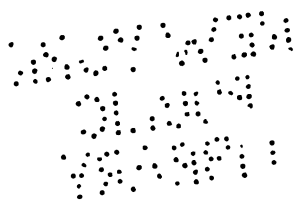
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KING HENRY VI.
PART III.*

VOL. VI.

B



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• **THIRD PART OF KING HENRY VI.]** The action of this play (which was at first printed under this title, *The True Tragedy of Richard duke of York, and the good King Henry the Sixth; or, The Second Part of the Contention of York and Lancaster,*) opens just after the first battle at Saint Albans, [May 23, 1455,] wherein the York faction carried the day; and closes with the murder of King Henry VI. and the birth of Prince Edward, afterwards King Edward V. [November 4, 1471.] So that this history takes in the space of full sixteen years. THEOBALD.

I have never seen the quarto copy of the *Second* part of **THE WHOLE CONTENTION**, &c. printed by *Valentine Simmes* for Thomas Millington, 1600; but the copy printed by W. W. for Thomas Millington, 1600, is now before me; and it is not precisely the same with that described by Mr. Pope and Mr. Theobald, nor does the undated edition (printed, in fact, in 1619,) correspond with their description. The title of the piece printed in 1600, by W. W. is as follows: *The True Tragedie of Richard Duke of Yorke, and the Death of good King Henrie the Sixt: With the whole Contention between the two Houses Lancaster and Yorke: as it was sundry Times acted by the Right Honourable the Earle of Pembroke his Servants. Printed at London by W. W. for Thomas Millington, and are to be sold at his Shoppe under St. Peter's Church in Cornewall, 1600.* On this piece Shakespeare, as I conceive, in 1591, formed the drama before us. MALONE.

The present historical drama was altered by Crowne, and brought on the stage in the year 1680, under the title of *The Miseries of Civil War*. Surely the works of Shakspeare could have been little read at that period; for Crowne, in his Prologue, declares the play to be entirely his own composition:

“For by his feeble skill 'tis built alone,

“The divine Shakspeare *did not lay one stone.*”

whereas the very first scene is that of Jack Cade copied almost verbatim from *The Second Part of King Henry VI.* and several others from this third part, with as little variation. STEEVENS.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

King Henry the Sixth :

Edward, Prince of Wales, his Son.

Lewis XI. King of France.

Duke of Somersset. Duke of Exeter.

*Earlof Oxford. Earlof Northum- } Lords on K.
berland. Earl of Westmoreland. } Henry's side.
Lord Clifford.*

Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York :

Edward, Earl of March, afterwards

King Edward IV.

Edmund, Earl of Rutland,

George, afterwards Duke of Clarence,

Richard, afterwards Duke of Gloucester,

} his Sons.

Duke of Norfolk,

Marquis of Montague,

Earl of Warwick,

Earl of Pembroke,

Lord Hastings,

Lord Stafford,

*} of the Duke of York's
party.*

Sir John Mortimer,

Sir Hugh Mortimer,

} Uncles to the Duke of York.

Henry, Earl of Richmond, a Youth.

Lord Rivers, Brother to Lady Grey. Sir William

Stanley. Sir John Montgomery. Sir John So-

merville. Tutor to Rutland. Mayor of York.

Lieutenant of the Tower. A Nobleman. Two

Keepers. A Huntsman. A Son that has killed

his Futher. A Father that has killed his Son.

Queen Margaret.

Lady Grey, afterwards Queen to Edward IV.

Bona, Sister to the French Queen.

Soldiers, and other Attendants on King Henry and

King Edward, Messengers, Watchmen, &c.

*SCENE, during part of the third Act, in France;
during all the rest of the Play, in England.*

THIRD PART OF
KING HENRY VI.¹

ACT. I.

SCENE I. London. The Parliament-House.

Drums. Some Soldiers of York's Party break in. Then, Enter the Duke of YORK, EDWARD, RICHARD, NORFOLK, MONTAGUE, WARWICK, and Others, with white Roses in their Hats.

War. I wonder, how the king escap'd our hands.

York. While we pursu'd the horsemen of the north,

He sliely stole away, and left his men :

Whereat the great lord of Northumberland,

Whose warlike ears could never brook retreat,

' Cheer'd up the drooping army ; and himself,

' Lord Clifford, and lord Stafford, all a-breast,

' Charg'd our main battle's front, and, breaking in,

' Were by the swords of common soldiers slain.

Edw. Lord Stafford's father, duke of Buckingham,

' Is either slain, or wounded dangerous :

I cleft his beaver with a downright blow ;

' That this is true, father, behold his blood.

[Showing his bloody Sword.]

¹ *Third Part of King Henry VI.*] This play is only divided from the former for the convenience of exhibition ; for the series of action is continued without interruption, nor are any two scenes of any play more closely connected than the first scene of this play with the last of the former. JOHNSON.

THIRD PART OF

Mont. And, brother, here's the earl of Wiltshire's blood,
[*To YORK, showing his.*

Whom I encounter'd as the battles join'd.

Rich. Speak thou for me, and tell them what I did.

[*Throwing down the Duke of SOMERSET's Head.*

* *York.* Richard hath best deserv'd of all my sons.—

What, is your grace dead, my lord of Somerset?

Norfolk. Such hope have all the line of John of Gaunt!

Rich. Thus do I hope to shake king Henry's head.

War. And so do I.—Victorious prince of York,

Before I see thee seated in that throne

Which now the house of Lancaster usurps,

I vow by heaven, these eyes shall never close.

This is the palace of the fearful king,

‘ And this the regal seat: possess it, York :

For this is thine, and not king Henry's heirs'.

York. Assist me then, sweet Warwick, and I will;

'For hither we have broken in by force.'

Norf. We'll all assist you ; he, that flies, shall die.

York. Thanks, gentle Norfolk,—Stay by me, my lords:—

' And, soldiers, stay, and lodge by me this night.

War. And, when the king comes, offer him no violence,

‘ Unless he seek to thrust you out by force.

[They retire.]

* *York.* The queen, this day, here holds her parliament,

* But little thinks we shall be of her council :

*** By words, or blows, here let us win our right.**

Rich. Arm'd as we are, let's stay within this house.

War. The bloody parliament shall this be call'd,

Unless Plantagenet, duke of York, be king ;

And bashful Henry depos'd, whose cowardice

Hath made us by-words to our enemies.

' *York*. Then leave me not, my lords ; be resolute ;
I mean to take possession of my right.

War. Neither the king, nor he that loves him best,
' The proudest he that holds up Lancaster,
Dares stir a wing, if Warwick shake his bells.²
' I'll plant Plantagenet, root him up who dares :—
Resolve thee, Richard ; claim the English crown.

[*WARWICK leads YORK to the Throne, who
seats himself.*

*Flourish. Enter King HENRY, CLIFFORD, NORTH-
THUMBERLAND, WESTMORELAND, EXETER, and
Others, with red Roses in their Hats.*

K. Hen. My lords, look where the sturdy rebel sits,
Even in the chair of state ! belike, he means,
(Back'd by the power of Warwick, that false peer,)
To aspire unto the crown, and reign as king.—
Earl of Northumberland, he slew thy father ;—
And thine, lord Clifford ; and you both have vow'd
revenge

On him, his sons, his favourites, and his friends.

' *North*. If I be not, heavens, be reveng'd on me !

Clif. The hope thereof makes Clifford mourn in
steel.

West. What, shall we suffer this ? let's pluck him
down :

' My heart for anger burns, I cannot brook it.

K. Hen. Be patient, gentle earl of Westmoreland.

Clif. Patience is for poltroons, and such as he ;
He durst not sit there had your father liv'd.
My gracious lord, here in the parliament
Let us assail the family of York.

North. Well hast thou spoken, cousin ; be it so.

² — if *Warwick shake his bells.*] The allusion is to falconry.
The hawks had sometimes little bells hung upon them, perhaps to
dare the birds ; that is, to fright them from rising.

K. Hen. Ah, know you not, the city favours them,
And they have troops of soldiers at their beck ?

Ere. But when the duke is slain, they'll quickly
fly.

K. Hen. Far be the thought of this from Henry's
heart,
To make a shambles of the parliament-house !
Cousin of Exeter, frowns, words, and threats,
Shall be the war that Henry means to use.—

[*They advance to the duke.*]

Thou factious duke of York, descend my throne,
And kneel for grace and mercy at my feet ;
I am thy sovereign.

York. Thou art deceiv'd, I am thine.

Ere. For shame, come down ; he made thee duke
of York.

York. 'Twas my inheritance, as the earldom was.

Ere. Thy father was a traitor to the crown.

War. Exeter, thou art a traitor to the crown,
In following this usurping Henry.

Clif. Whom should he follow, but his natural
king ?

War. True, Clifford ; and that's Richard, duke
of York.

K. Hen. And shall I stand, and thou sit in my
throne ?

York. It must and shall be so. Content thyself.

War. Be duke of Lancaster, let him be king.

West. He is both king and duke of Lancaster ;
And that the lord of Westmoreland shall maintain.

War. And Warwick shall disprove it. You forget,
That we are those, which chas'd you from the field,
And slew your fathers, and with colours spread
March'd through the city to the palace gates.

North. Yes, Warwick, I remember it to my
grief ;
And, by his soul, thou and thy house shall rue it.

West. Plantagenet, of thee, and these thy sons,
Thy kinsmen, and thy friends, I'll have more lives,
Than drops of blood were in my father's veins.

Clif. Urge it no more : lest that, instead of words,
I send thee, Warwick, such a messenger,
As shall revenge his death, before I stir.

War. Poor Clifford ! how I scorn his worthless
threats !

York. Will you, we show our title to the crown ?
If not, our swords shall plead it in the field.

K. Hen. What title hast thou, traitor, to the
crown ?

Thy father was, as thou art, duke of York ;
Thy grandfather, Roger Mortimer, earl of March :
I am the son of Henry the fifth,
Who made the Dauphin and the French to stoop,
And seiz'd upon their towns and provinces.

War. Talk not of France, sith³ thou hast lost it
all.

K. Hen. The lord protector lost it, and not I ;
When I was crown'd, I was but nine months old.

Rich. You are old enough now, and yet, methinks
you lose :—

Father, tear the crown from the usurper's head.

Edw. Sweet father, do so ; set it on your head.

Mont. Good brother, [*To YORK.*] as thou lov'st
and honour'st arms,

Let's fight it out, and not stand cavilling thus.

Rich. Sound drums and trumpets, and the king
will fly.

York. Sons, peace !

K. Hen. Peace thou ! and give king Henry leave
to speak.

War. Plantagenet shall speak first :— hear him,
lords ;

³ — sith —] i. e. since.

And be you silent and attentive too,
For he, that interrupts him, shall not live.

' *K. Hen.* Think'st thou, that I will leave my kingly
throne,

Wherein my grandsire, and my father sat ?
No : first shall war unpeople this my realm ;
' *Ay*, and their colours—often borne in France ;
And now in England, to our heart's great sorrow,—
Shall be my winding sheet.—Why faint you, lords ?
' My title's good, and better far than his.

War. But prove it, Henry, and thou shalt be king.

K. Hen. Henry the fourth by conquest got the
crown.

York. 'Twas by rebellion against his king.

K. Hen. I know not what to say ; my title's weak.
Tell me, may not a king adopt an heir ?

York. What then ?

' *K. Hen.* An if he may, then am I lawful king :
' For Richard, in the view of many lords,
Resign'd the crown to Henry the fourth ;
Whose heir my father was, and I am his.

York. He rose against him, being his sovereign,
And made him to resign his crown perforce.

War. Suppose, my lords, he did it unconstrain'd,
Think you, 'twere prejudicial to his crown ?⁴

Ere. No ; for he could not so resign his crown,
But that the next heir should succeed and reign.

K. Hen. Art thou against us, duke of Exeter ?

Ere. His is the right, and therefore pardon me.

* *York.* Why whisper you, my lords, and answer
not ?

Ere. My conscience tells me he is lawful king.

K. Hen. All will revolt from me, and turn to him.

North. Plantagenet, for all the claim thou lay'st,
Think not, that Henry shall be so depos'd.

⁴ ——— prejudicial to his crown ?] i. e. to the prerogative of the
crown.

War. Depos'd he shall be, in despite of all.

North. Thou art deceiv'd : 'tis not thy southern power,

' Of Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, nor of Kent,—
Which makes thee thus presumptuous and proud,—
Can set the duke up, in despite of me.

Clif. King Henry, be thy title right or wrong,
Lord Clifford vows to fight in thy defence :
May that ground gape, and swallow me alive,
' Where I shall kneel to him that slew my father !

K. Hen. O Clifford, how thy words revive my heart !

York. Henry of Lancaster, resign thy crown :—
What mutter you, or what conspire you, lords ?

War. Do right unto this princely duke of York ;
Or I will fill the house with armed men,
And, o'er the chair of state, where now he sits,
Write up his title with usurping blood.

[*He stamps, and the Soldiers show themselves.*]

K. Hen. My lord of Warwick, hear me but one word ;—

' Let me, for this my life-time, reign as king.

York. Confirm the crown to me, and to mine heirs,

And thou shalt reign in quiet while thou liv'st.

K. Hen. I am content : Richard Plantagenet,
Enjoy my kingdom after my decease.

Clif. What wrong is this unto the prince your son ?

War. What good is this to England, and himself ?

West. Base, fearful, and despairing Henry !

' *Clif.* How hast thou injur'd both thyself and us ?

West. I cannot stay to hear these articles.

North. Nor I.

Clif. Come, cousin, let us tell the queen these news.

* *West.* Farewell, faint-hearted and degenerate king,

* In whose cold blood no spark of honour bides.

North. Be thou a prey unto the house of York,
' And die in bands for this unmanly deed !

Clif. In dreadful war may'st thou be overcome !
Or live in peace, abandon'd, and despis'd !

[*Exeunt NORTHUMBERLAND, CLIFFORD, and
WESTMORELAND.*]

* *War.* Turn this way, Henry, and regard them not.

Exe. They seek revenge,⁵ and therefore will not
yield.

K. Hen. Ah, Exeter !

War. Why should you sigh, my lord ?

K. Hen. Not for myself, lord Warwick, but my son,
Whom I unnaturally shall disinherit.

But, be it as it may :—I here entail

' The crown to thee, and to thine heirs for ever ;

Conditionally, that here thou take an oath

To cease this civil war, and, whilst I live,

To honour me as thy king and sovereign ;

* And neither by treason, nor hostility,

* To seek to put me down, and reign thyself.

York. This oath I willingly take, and will perform.

[*Coming from the Throne.*]

War. Long live king Henry !—Plantagenet, em-
brace him.

' *K. Hen.* And long live thou, and these thy for-
ward sons !

York. Now York and Lancaster are reconcil'd.

Exe. Accurs'd be he, that seeks to make them
foes ! [*Senet. The Lords come forward.*]

' *York.* Farewell, my gracious lord ; I'll to my
castle.⁶

War. And I'll keep London, with my soldiers.

⁵ *They seek revenge,*] They go away, not because they doubt
the justice of this determination, but because they have been con-
quered, and seek to be revenged. They are not influenced by
principle, but passion.

⁶ — *I'll to my castle.*] Sandal Castle, near Wakefield, in
Yorkshire.

Norfolk. And I to Norfolk, with my followers.

Mont. And I unto the sea, from whence I came.

[*Exeunt YORK, and his Sons, WARWICK, NORFOLK, MONTAGUE, Soldiers and Attendants.*]

* *K. Hen.* And I, with grief and sorrow, to the court.

Enter Queen MARGARET and the Prince of Wales.

Etc. Here comes the queen, whose looks bewray^d her anger :

I'll steal away.

K. Hen. Exeter, so will I. [*Going.*]

* *Q. Mar.* Nay, go not from me, I will follow thee.

K. Hen. Be patient, gentle queen, and I will stay.

* *Q. Mar.* Who can be patient in such extremes?

* Ah, wretched man! 'would I had died a maid,

* And never seen thee, never borne thee son,

* Seeing thou hast prov'd so unnatural a father!

* Hath he deserv'd to lose his birthright thus?

* Had'st thou but lov'd him half so well as I;

* Or felt that pain which I did for him once;

* Or nourish'd him, as I did with my blood;

* Thou wouldst have left thy dearest heart-blood there,

* Rather than made that savage duke thine heir,

* And disinherited thine only son.

* *Prince.* Father, you cannot disinherit me :

* If you be king, why should not I succeed?

* *K. Hen.* Pardon me, Margaret;—pardon me, sweet son;—

* The earl of Warwick, and the duke, enforc'd me.

* *Q. Mar.* Enforc'd thee! art thou king, and wilt be forc'd?

I shame to hear thee speak. Ah, timorous wretch!

Thou hast undone thyself, thy son, and me;

[*Enter York, and his Sons, Warwick, Norfolk, Montague, Soldiers and Attendants.*]

‘ And given unto the house of York such head,
 * As thou shalt reign but by their sufferance.
 * To entail him and his heirs unto the crown,
 * What is it, but to make thy sepulchre,^g
 * And creep into it far before thy time ?
 * Warwick is Chancellor, and the lord of Calais ;
 Stern Faulconbridge commands the narrow seas ;
 The duke is made protector of the realm ;
 ‘ And yet shalt thou be safe ? * such safety finds
 * The trembling lamb, environed with wolves.
 ‘ Had I been there, which am a silly woman,
 ‘ The soldiers should have toss’d me on their pikes,
 ‘ Before I would have granted to that act.
 * But thou preferr’st thy life before thine honour :
 ‘ And seeing thou dost, I here divorce myself,
 ‘ Both from thy table, Henry, and thy bed,
 ‘ Until that act of parliament be repeal’d,
 ‘ Whereby my son is disinherited.
 The northern lords, that have forsworn thy colours,
 Will follow mine, if once they see them spread :
 ‘ And spread they shall be ; to thy foul disgrace,
 ‘ And utter ruin of the house of York.
 ‘ Thus do I leave thee :—Come, son, let’s away ;
 ‘ Our army’s ready ; come, we’ll after them.

K. Hen. Stay, gentle Margaret, and hear me speak.

Q. Mar. Thou hast spoke too much already ; get thee gone.

K. Hen. Gentle son Edward, thou wilt stay with me ?

Q. Mar. Ay, to be murder’d by his enemies.

Prince. When I return with victory from the field,
 I’ll see your grace : till then, I’ll follow her.

Q. Mar. Come, son, away ; we may not linger thus.

[*Exeunt Queen MARGARET, and the Prince.*]

^g *What is it, but to make thy sepulchre,*] The queen’s reproach is founded on a position long received among politicians, that the loss of a king’s power is soon followed by loss of life.

[*Exeunt.*

A Room in Sandal Castle, near Wakefield, in Yorkshire.

Rich. Brother, though I be youngest, give me leave.

Edw. No, I can better play the orator.

Mont. But I have reasons strong and forcible.

York. Why, how now, sons and brother, at a strife?
What is your quarrel? how began it first?

Edw. No quarrel, but a slight contention.

York. About what?

Rich. About that which concerns your grace,
and us ;

'The crown of England, father, which is yours.

⁹ *Tire on the flesh of me,*] To *tire* is to fasten, to fix the talons, from the French *tirer*; or rather, to *peck*.

— those three lords —] That is, of Northumberland Westmoreland, and Clifford, who had left him in disgust.

- ' *York.* Mine, boy? not till king Henry be dead.
 * *Rich.* Your right depends not on his life, or death.
 * *Edw.* Now you are heir, therefore enjoy it now :
 * By giving the house of Lancaster leave to breathe,
 * It will outrun you, father, in the end.
 ' *York.* I took an oath, that he should quietly reign.
 ' *Edw.* But, for a kingdom, any oath may be broken :
 ' I'd break a thousand oaths, to reign one year.
 ' *Rich.* No ; God forbid, your grace should be forsworn.
 ' *York.* I shall be, if I claim by open war.
 ' *Rich.* I'll prove the contrary, if you'll hear me speak.
 ' *York.* Thou canst not, son ; it is impossible.
 ' *Rich.* An oath is of no moment,² being not took
 ' Before a true and lawful magistrate,
 ' That hath authority over him that swears :
 ' Henry had none, but did usurp the place ;
 ' Then, seeing 'twas he that made you to depose,
 ' Your oath, my lord, is vain and frivolous.
 ' Therefore, to arms. * And, father, do but think,
 * How sweet a thing it is to wear a crown ;
 * Within whose circuit is Elysium,
 * And all that poets feign of bliss and joy.
 * Why do we linger thus? I cannot rest,
 * Until the white rose, that I wear, be died
 * Even in the lukewarm blood of Henry's heart.
 ' *York.* Richard, enough ; I will be king, or die.—
 ' Brother, thou shalt to London presently,
 ' And whet on Warwick to this enterprise.—

² *An oath is of no moment,*} The obligation of an oath is here eluded by very despicable sophistry. A lawful magistrate alone has the power to exact an oath, but the oath derives no part of its force from the magistrate. The plea against the obligation of an oath obliging to maintain an usurper, taken from the unlawfulness of the oath itself in the foregoing play, was rational and just.

KING HENRY VI.

'Thou Richard, shalt unto the duke of Norfolk,
 'And tell him privily of our intent.—
 'You, Edward, shall unto my lord Cobham,
 With whom the Kentishmen will willingly rise :
 'In them I trust ; for they are soldiers,
 'Witty and courteous, liberal, full of spirit.—
 'While you are thus employ'd, what resteth more,
 'But that I seek occasion how to rise ;
 'And yet the king not privy to my drift,
 'Nor any of the house of Lancaster ?

Enter a Messenger.

'But, stay ; What news ? why com'st thou in such post ?

'*Mess.* The queen, with all the northern earls and lords,

'Intend here to besiege you in your castle :

'She is hard by with twenty thousand men ;

'And therefore fortify your hold, my lord.

* *York.* Ay, with my sword. What ! think'st thou, that we fear them ?—

'Edward and Richard, you shall stay with me ;—

'My brother Montague shall post to London :

* Let noble Warwick, Cobham, and the rest,

* Whom we have left protectors of the king,

* With powerful policy strengthen themselves,

* And trust not simple Henry, nor his oaths.

* *Mont.* Brother, I go ; I'll win them, fear it not

* And thus most humbly I do take my leave.

[*Exi.*

³ *The queen, with all, &c.]* I know not whether the author intended any moral instruction, but he that reads this has a striking admonition against that precipitancy by which men often use unlawful means to do that which a little delay would put honest in their power. Had York staid but a few moments, he had saved his cause from the stain of perjury. JOHNSON.

The whole, however, is a violation of historic truth.

Enter Sir JOHN and Sir HUGH MORTIMER.

York. Sir John, and Sir Hugh Mortimer, mine uncles!

‘ You are come to Sandal in a happy hour ;
The army of the queen mean to besiege us.

Sir John. She shall not need, we’ll meet her in the field.

‘ *York.* What, with five thousand men ?

Rich. Ay, with five hundred, father, for a need.
A woman’s general ; what should we fear ?

[*A March afar off.*

‘ *Edw.* I hear their drums ; let’s set our men in order ;

‘ And issue forth, and bid them battle straight.

‘ *York.* Five men to twenty !—though the odds be great,

‘ I doubt not, uncle, of our victory.

‘ Many a battle have I won in France,

‘ When as the enemy hath been ten to one ;

‘ Why should I not now have the like success ?

[*Alarum. Exeunt.*

SCENE III.

Plains near Sandal Castle.

Alarums ; Excursions. Enter RUTLAND, and his Tutor.

‘ *Rut.* Ah, whither shall I fly to ’scape their hands !
Ah, tutor ! look, where bloody Clifford comes !

Enter CLIFFORD, and Soldiers.

Clif. Chaplain, away ! thy priesthood saves thy life.
As for the brat of this accursed duke,

Whose father⁴ slew my father,—he shall die.

Tut. And I, my lord, will bear him company.

Clif. Soldiers, away with him.

Tut. Ah, Clifford! murder not this innocent child,

Lest thou be hated both of God and man.

[Exit, forced off by Soldiers.]

Clif. How now! is he dead already? Or, is it fear,
That makes him close his eyes?—I'll open them.

Rut. So looks the pent-up lion o'er the wretch
That trembles under his devouring paws:

And so he walks, insulting o'er his prey;

And so he comes to rend his limbs asunder.—

Ah, gentle Clifford, kill me with thy sword,

And not with such a cruel threat'ning look.

Sweet Clifford, hear me speak before I die;—

I am too mean a subject for thy wrath,

Be thou reveng'd on men, and let me live.

Clif. In vain thou speak'st, poor boy; my father's blood

Hath stopp'd the passage where thy words should enter.

Rut. Then let my father's blood open it again;

He is a man, and, Clifford, cope with him.

Clif. Had I thy brethren here, their lives, and thine
Were not revenge sufficient for me;

No, if I digg'd up thy forefathers' graves,

And hung their rotten coffins up in chains,

It could not slake mine ire, nor ease my heart.

The sight of any of the house of York

Is as a fury to torment my soul;

And till I root out their accursed line,

And leave not one alive, I live in hell,

Therefore——

[Lifting his hand.]

⁴ *Whose father —*] i. e. the father of which brat, namely the Duke of York.

Rut. O, let me pray before I take my death :—
To thee I pray ; Sweet Clifford, pity me !

Clif. Such pity as my rapier's point affords.

' *Rut.* I never did thee harm ; Why wilt thou slay me ?

Clif. Thy father hath.

Rut. But 'twas ere I was born,
Thou hast one son, for his sake pity me ;
Lest in revenge thereof,—sith God is just,—
He be as miserably slain as I.
Ah, let me live in prison all my days ;
And when I give occasion of offence,
Then let me die, for now thou hast no cause.

Clif. No cause ?
Thy father slew my father ; therefore, die.

[CLIFFORD stabs him,

Rut. *Dū faciant, laudis summa sit ista tuæ !*

[Dies,

Clif. Plantagenet ! I come, Plantagenet !
And this thy son's blood cleaving to my blade,
Shall rust upon my weapon, till thy blood,
Congeal'd with this, do make me wipe off both.

[Exit,

SCENE IV.

The same.

Alarum. Enter YORK.

' *York.* The army of the queen hath got the field ;
' My uncles both are slain in rescuing me ;
' And all my followers to the eager foe
' Turn back, and fly, like ships before the wind,
' Or lambs pursu'd by hungry-starv'd wolves.
' My sons—God knows, what hath bechanced
 them :

But this I know,—they have demean'd themselves

Like men born to renown, by life, or death.
 ' Three times did Richard make a lane to me;
 And thrice cried,—*Courage, father! fight it out!*
 ' And full as oft came Edward to my side,
 With purple faulchion, painted to the hilt
 ' In blood of those that had encounter'd him:
 ' And when the hardiest warriors did retire,
 ' Richard cried,—*Charge! and give no foot of ground!*
 ' And cried,—*A crown, or else a glorious tomb!*
 ' *A sceptre, or an earthly sepulchre!*
 With this, we charg'd again: but, out, alas!
 ' We bodg'd again;⁵ as I have seen a swan
 ' With bootless labour swim against the tide,
 And spend her strength with over-matching waves.

[*A short Alarum within.*]

' Ah, hark! the fatal followers do pursue;
 ' And I am faint, and cannot fly their fury:
 ' And, were I strong, I would not shun their fury:
 ' The sands are number'd, that make up my life;
 ' Here must I stay, and here my life must end.

Enter Queen MARGARET, CLIFFORD, NORTHUMBERLAND, and Soldiers.

' Come, bloody Clifford,—rough Northumberland,—
 ' I dare your quenchless fury to more rage;
 ' I am your butt, and I abide your shot.

North. Yield to our mercy, proud Plantagenet.

Clif. Ay, to such mercy, as his ruthless arm,
 With downright payment show'd unto my father.
 Now Phaeton hath tumbled from his car,
 And made an evening at the noontide prick.⁶

York. My ashes, as the phoenix, may bring forth
 ' A bird that will revenge upon you all:

⁵ *We bodg'd again;*] i. e. we boggled, made bad or bungling work of our attempt to rally.

⁶ — *noontide prick.*] Or, noontide point on the dial.

‘ And, in that hope, I throw mine eyes to heaven,
Scorning whate’er you can afflict me with.

‘ Why come you not! what! multitudes, and fear?

Clif. So cowards fight, when they can fly no further;

‘ So doves do peck the falcon’s piercing talons;
So desperate thieves, all hopeless of their lives,
Breathe out invectives ’gainst the officers.

York. O, Clifford, but bethink thee once again,

‘ And in thy thought o’er-run my former time:

* And, if thou canst for blushing, view this face;
And bite thy tongue, that slanders him with cowardice,

‘ Whose frown hath made thee faint and fly ere this.

Clif. I will not bandy with thee word for word;
But buckle with thee blows, twice two for one.

[*Draws.*

Q. Mar. Hold, valiant Clifford! for a thousand causes,

I would prolong awhile the traitor’s life:—

Wrath makes him deaf: speak thou, Northumberland.

North. Hold, Clifford; do not honour him so much,

To prick thy finger, though to wound his heart:

What valour were it, when a cur doth grin,

For one to thrust his hand between his teeth,

When he might spurn him with his foot away?

It is war’s prize¹ to take all vantages;

‘ And ten to one is no impeach of valour,

[*They lay hands on YORK, who struggles.*

Clif. Ay, ay, so strives the woodcock with the gin.

North. So doth the coney struggle in the net.

[*YORK is taken prisoner.*

York. So triumph thieves upon their conquer’d
booty;

¹ *It is war’s prize —*] It is the estimation of people at war; the settled opinion.

So true men yield, with robbers so o'er-match'd.

North. What would your grace have done unto him now?

Q. Mar. Brave warriors, Clifford and Northumberland,

Come make him stand upon this molehill here;

'That raught⁹ at mountains with outstretched arms,
Yet parted but the shadow with his hand.—

* What! was it you, that would be England's king?

Was't you that revell'd in our parliament,

And made a preachment of your high descent?

Where are your mess of sons to back you now?

The wanton Edward, and the lusty George?

'And where's that valiant crook-back prodigy,

Dicky your boy, that, with his grumbling voice,

Was wont to cheer his dad in mutinies?

Or, with the rest, where is your darling Rutland?

Look, York; I stain'd this napkin⁹ with the blood

That valiant Clifford, with his rapier's point,

Made issue from the bosom of the boy:

And, if thine eyes can water for his death,

I give thee this to dry thy cheeks withal.

'Alas, poor York! but that I hate thee deadly,

I should lament thy miserable state.

I pr'ythee, grieve, to make me merry, York;

Stamp, rave, and fret, that I may sing and dance.

What, bath thy fiery heart so parch'd thine entrails,

That not a tear can fall for Rutland's death?

* Why art thou patient, man? thou should'st be mad;

* And I, to make thee mad, do mock thee thus.

Thou would'st be fee'd, I see, to make me sport;

York cannot speak, unless he wear a crown.—

A crown for York;—and, lords, bow low to him.—

⁹ *That raught* —] i. e. *That reach'd*. The ancient preterite and participle passive of *reach*.

⁹ — *this napkin* —] A *napkin* is a handkerchief.

Hold you his hands, whilst I do set it on.—

[*Putting a paper Crown on his Head.*]

Ay, marry, sir, now looks he like a king!

Ay, this is he that took king Henry's chair;

And this is he was his adopted heir.—

But how is it that great Plantagenet

Is crown'd so soon, and broke his solemn oath?

As I bethink me, you should not be king,

Till our king Henry had shook hands with death.

And will you pale¹ your head in Henry's glory,

And rob his temples of the diadem,

Now in his life, against your holy oath?

O, 'tis a fault too too unpardonable!—

Off with the crown; and, with the crown, his head;

And, whilst we breathe, take time to do him dead.²

Clif. That is my office, for my father's sake.

Q. Mar. Nay, stay; let's hear the orisons he makes.

York. She-wolf of France, but worse than wolves of France,

' Whose tongue more poisons than the adder's tooth!

How ill-beseeming is it in thy sex,

To triumph like an Amazonian trull,

' Upon their woes, whom fortune captivates?

But that thy face is, visor-like, unchanging,

Made impudent with use of evil deeds,

I would assay, proud queen, to make thee blush:

To tell thee whence thou cam'st, of whom deriv'd,

Were shame enough to shame thee, wert thou not shameless.

Thy father bears the type³ of king of Naples,

Of both the Sicils, and Jerusalem;

Yet not so wealthy as an English yeoman.

¹ *And will you pale*] i. e. impale, encircle with a crown.

² — *to do him dead.*] To kill him.

³ — *the type* —] i. e. the distinguishing mark; an obsolete use of the word.

that poor monarch taught thee to insult ?
 do not, nor it boots thee not, proud queen ;
 as the adage must be verified,
 beggars, mounted, run their horse to death.
 beauty, that doth oft make women proud ;
 God he knows, thy share thereof is small :
 virtue, that doth make them most admir'd ;
 contrary doth make them wonder'd at :
 government, that makes them seem divine ;
 want thereof makes thee abominable :
 art as opposite to every good,
 as Antipodes are unto us,
 the south to the septentrion.⁵
 her's heart, wrapp'd in a woman's hide !
 could'st thou drain the life-blood of the child,
 did the father wipe his eyes withal,
 yet be seen to bear a woman's face ?
 men are soft, mild, pitiful, and flexible ;
 thou stern, obdurate, flinty, tough, remorseless.
 'st thou me rage ? why now thou hast thy wish :
 wilt't have me weep ? why, now thou hast thy
 will :
 raging wind blows up incessant showers,
 when the rage allays, the rain begins.
 these tears are my sweet Rutland's obsequies ;
 & every drop cries vengeance for his death,—
 first thee, fell Clifford,—and thee, false French-
 woman.
Orch. Beshrew me, but his passions move me so,
 hardly can I check my eyes from tears.
York. That face of his the hungry cannibals
 did not have touch'd, would not have stain'd
 with blood :

[is government, that makes them seem divine ;] Government,
 the language of that time, signified evenness of temper, and
 equity of manners. JOHNSON.
 — septentrion.] i. e. the North. *Septentrio*, Lat.

But you are more inhuman, more inexorable,—
 O, ten times more,—than tigers of Hyrcania.—
 See, ruthless queen, a hapless father's tears :
 This cloth thou dipp'dst in blood of my sweet boy,
 And I with tears do wash the blood away.
 Keep thou the napkin, and go boast of this :

[*He gives back the Handkerchief.*]

And, if thou tell'st the heavy story right,
 Upon my soul, the hearers will shed tears ;
 Yea, even my foes will shed fast-falling tears,
 And say,—Alas, it was a piteous deed !—
 There, take the crown, and, with the crown, my
 curse ;

And, in thy need, such comfort come to thee,
 As now I reap at thy too cruel hand !—
 Hard-hearted Clifford, take me from the world ;
 My soul to heaven, my blood upon your heads !

North. Had he been slaughter-man to all my kin,
 ' I should not for my life but weep with him,
 To see how inly sorrow gripes his soul.

Q. Mar. What, weeping-ripe, my lord North-
 umberland ?

Think but upon the wrong he did us all,
 And that will quickly dry thy melting tears,

Clif. Here's for my oath, here's for my father's
 death. [Stabbing him.]

Q. Mar. And here's to right our gentle-hearted
 king. [Stabbing him.]

York. Open thy gate of mercy, gracious God !
 ' My soul flies through these wounds to seek out
 thee.

Q. Mar. Off with his head, and set it on York
 gates ;

So York may overlook the town of York. [*Exeunt.*]

ACT II.

SCENE I. A Plain near Mortimer's Cross in Herefordshire.

Drums. Enter EDWARD, and RICHARD, with their Forces, marching.

* *Edw.* I wonder, how our princely father 'scap'd ;
 * Or whether he be 'scap'd away, or no,
 * From Clifford's and Northumberland's pursuit ;
 * Had he been ta'en, we should have heard the news ;
 Had he been slain, we should have heard the news ;
 * Or, had he 'scap'd, methinks, we should have heard
 * The happy tidings of his good escape.—
 ' How fares my brother? why is he so sad?

Rich. I cannot joy, until I be resolv'd
 Where our right valiant father is become.
 ' I saw him in the battle range about ;
 ' And watch'd him how he singled Clifford forth.
 ' Methought, he bore him⁶ in the thickest troop,
 As doth a lion in a herd of neat :
 * Or as a bear, encompass'd round with dogs ;
 * Who having pinch'd a few, and made them cry,
 * The rest stand all aloof, and bark at him.
 * So far'd our father with his enemies ;
 ' So fled his enemies my warlike father ;
 ' Methinks, 'tis prize enough to be his son.
 See, how the morning opes her golden gates,
 And takes her farewell of the glorious sun !⁷

⁶ *Methought, he bore him* —] i. e. he demeaned himself.

⁷ *And takes her farewell of the glorious sun !*] Aurora takes for a time her farewell of the sun, when she dismisses him to his diurnal course.

- * How well resembles it the prime of youth,
- * Trimm'd like a younker, prancing to his love!

Edw. Dazzle mine eyes, or do I see three suns?

Rich. Three glorious suns, each one a perfect sun;
Not separated with the racking clouds,⁸
But sever'd in a pale clear-shining sky.
See, see! they join, embrace, and seem to kiss,
As if they vow'd some league inviolable:
Now are they but one lamp, one light, one sun.
In this the heaven figures some event.

* *Edw.* 'Tis wondrous strange, the like yet never
heard of.

I think, it cites us, brother, to the field;
That we, the sons of brave Plantagenet,
' Each one already blazing by our meeds,⁹
Should, notwithstanding, join our lights together,
' And over-shine the earth, as this the world.
' Whate'er it bodes, henceforward will I bear
Upon my target three fair shining suns.

* *Rich.* Nay, bear three daughters;—by your
leave I speak it,

* You love the breeder better than the male.

Enter a Messenger.

' But what art thou, whose heavy looks foretel
' Some dreadful story hanging on thy tongue?

Mess. Ah, one that was a woful looker on,
When as the noble duke of York was slain,

* Your princely father, and my loving lord.

' *Edw.* O, speak no more!' for I have heard too
much.

⁸ — the racking clouds,] i. e. the clouds in rapid, tumultuary motion.

⁹ — blazing by our meeds,] *Meed* here means *merit*.

' O, speak no more!'] The generous tenderness of Edward, and savage fortitude of Richard, are well distinguished by their different reception of their father's death. JOHNSON.

‘ *Rich.* Say how he died, for I will hear it all.

‘ *Mess.* Environed he was with many foes ;

* And stood against them as the hope of Troy²

* Against the Greeks, that would have enter’d Troy.

* But Hercules himself must yield to odds ;

* And many strokes, though with a little axe,

* Hew down and fell the hardest-timber’d oak.

‘ By many hands your father was subdu’d ;

‘ But only slaughter’d by the ireful arm

‘ Of unrelenting Clifford, and the queen :

‘ Who crown’d the gracious duke in high despite³ ;

‘ Laugh’d in his face ; and, when with grief he wept,

‘ The ruthless queen gave him, to dry his cheeks,

‘ A napkin steeped in the harmless blood

‘ Of sweet young Rutland, by rough Clifford slain :

‘ And, after many scorns, many foul taunts,

‘ They took his head, and on the gates of York

‘ They set the same ; and there it doth remain,

‘ The saddest spectacle that e’er I view’d.

Edw. Sweet duke of York, our prop to lean upon ;

‘ Now thou art gone, we have no staff, no stay !—

* O Clifford, boist’rous Clifford, thou hast slain

* The flower of Europe for his chivalry ;

* And treacherously hast thou vanquish’d him,

* For, hand to hand, he would have vanquish’d thee !—

Now my soul’s palace is become a prison :

Ah, would she break from hence ! that this my body

‘ Might in the ground be closed up in rest :

‘ For never henceforth shall I joy again,

‘ Never, O never, shall I see more joy.

‘ *Rich.* I cannot weep ; for all my body’s moisture

Scarce serves to quench my furnace-burning heart :

* Nor can my tongue unload my heart’s great burden ;

² — the hope of Troy —] Hector.

- * For self-same wind, that I should speak withal,
- * Is kindling coals, that fire all my breast,
- * And burn me up with flames, that tears would quench.
- * To weep, is to make less the depth of grief:
- * Tears, then, for babes ; blows, and revenge, for me !—

- ‘ Richard, I bear thy name, I’ll venge thy death,
- ‘ Or die renowned by attempting it.

Edw. His name that valiant duke hath left with thee ;

- ‘ His dukedom and his chair with me is left.

Rich. Nay, if thou be that princely eagle’s bird,
Show thy descent by gazing ’gainst the sun :
For chair and dukedom, throne and kingdom say ;
Either that is thine, or else thou wert not his.

March. Enter WARWICK and MONTAGUE, with Forces.

War. How now, fair lords ? What fare ? what news abroad ?

‘ *Rich.* Great lord of Warwick, if we should recount

Our baleful news, and, at each word’s deliverance,
Stab poniards in our flesh till all were told,
The words would add more anguish than the wounds.
O valiant lord, the duke of York is slain.

Edw. O Warwick ! Warwick ! that Plantagenet,
Which held thee dearly, as his soul’s redemption,
Is by the stern lord Clifford done to death.

War. Ten days ago I drown’d these news in tears :
And now, to add more measure to your woes,
I come to tell you things since then befall’n.
After the bloody fray at Wakefield fought,
Where your brave father breath’d his latest gasp,
Tidings, as swiftly as the posts could run,
Were brought me of your loss, and his depart.

I then in London, keeper of the king,
 Muster'd my soldiers, gather'd flocks of friends,
 And very well appointed, as I thought,
 March'd towards Saint Alban's to intercept th
 queen,

Bearing the king in my behalf along :
 For by my scouts I was advértised,
 That she was coming with a full intent
 To dash our late decree in parliament,
 ' Touching king Henry's oath, and your successor
 Short tale to make,—we at Saint Alban's met,
 Our battles join'd, and both sides fiercely fought :
 But, whether 'twas the coldness of the king,
 Who look'd full gently on his warlike queen,
 That robb'd my soldiers of their hated spleen ;
 Or whether 'twas report of her success ;
 Or more than common fear of Clifford's rigour,
 ' Who thunders to his captives—blood and death,
 I cannot judge : but, to conclude with truth,
 Their weapons like to lightning came and went ;
 Our soldiers'—like the night-owl's lazy flight,
 ' Or like a lazy thrasher with a flail,—
 Fell gently down, as if they struck their friends.
 I cheer'd them up with justice of our cause,
 With promise of high pay, and great rewards :
 But all in vain ; they had no heart to fight,
 And we, in them, no hope to win the day,
 So that we fled : the king, unto the queen ;
 Lord George your brother, Norfolk, and myself,
 In haste, post-haste, are come to join with you ;
 For in the marches here, we heard, you were,
 Making another head to fight again.

' *Edw.* Where is the duke of Norfolk, gent
 Warwick ?

And when came George from Burgundy to England

' *War.* Some six miles off the duke is with th
 soldiers :

And for your brother, he was lately sent
 From your kind aunt, duchess of Burgundy,
 ' With aid of soldiers to this needful war.

Rich. 'Twas odds, belike, when valiant Warwick
 fled :

Oft have I heard his praises in pursuit,
 But ne'er, till now, his scandal of retire.

War. Nor now my scandal, Richard, dost thou
 hear ;

For thou shalt know, this strong right hand of mine
 Can pluck the diadem from faint Henry's head,
 And wring the awful scepter from his fist ;
 Were he as famous and as bold in war,
 As he is fam'd for mildness, peace, and prayer.

Rich. I know it well, lord Warwick ! blame me
 not ;

'Tis love, I bear thy glories, makes me speak.
 But, in this troublous time, what's to be done ?
 Shall we go throw away our coats of steel,
 And wrap our bodies in black mourning gowns,
 Numb'ring our Ave-Maries with our beads ?
 Or shall we on the helmets of our foes
 Tell our devotion with revengeful arms ?
 If for the last, say,—Ay, and to it, lords.

War. Why, therefore Warwick came to seek you
 out ;

And therefore comes my brother Montague.
 Attend me, lords. The proud insulting queen,
 With Clifford, and the haught Northumberland,*
 And of their feather, many more proud birds,
 Have wrought the easy melting king like wax.
 He swore consent to your succession,
 His oath enrolled in the parliament ;
 And now to London all the crew are gone,
 To frustrate both his oath, and what beside

* — haught *Northumberland*,] i. e. high spirited, or haughty.

May make against the house of Lancaster.
 ' Their power, I think, is thirty thousand strong :
 Now, if the help of Norfolk, and myself,
 With all the friends that thou, brave earl of March,
 Amongst the loving Welshmen canst procure,
 ' Will but amount to five and twenty thousand,
 Why, *Via!* to London will we march amain ;
 And once again bestride our foaming steeds,
 ' And once again cry—Charge upon our foes !
 But never once again turn back, and fly.

Rich. Ay, now, methinks, I hear great Warwick
 speak :

Ne'er may he live to see a sunshine day,
 ' That cries—Retire, if Warwick bid him stay.

Edw. Lord Warwick, on thy shoulder will I lean ;
 ' And when thou fall'st, (as God forbid the hour!)
 Must Edward fall, which peril heaven forefend !

War. No longer earl of March, but duke of York
 ' The next degree is, England's royal throne :
 For king of England shalt thou be proclaim'd
 In every borough as we pass along ;
 And he that throws not up his cap for joy,
 ' Shall for the fault make forfeit of his head.
 King Edward,—valiant Richard,—Montague,—
 Stay we no longer dreaming of renown,
 ' But sound the trumpets, and about our task.

* *Rich.* Then, Clifford, were thy heart as hard
 as steel,

* (As thou hast shown it flinty by thy deeds,)

* I come to pierce it,—or to give thee mine.

* *Edw.* Then strike up, drums ;—God, and Saint
 George, for us !

Enter a Messenger.

War. How now ? what news ?

Mess. The duke of Norfolk sends you word by me
 The queen is coming with a puissant host ;

And craves your company for speedy counsel.

‘ *War.* Why then it sorts,⁴ brave warriors : Let’s
away. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.

Before York.

*Enter King HENRY, Queen MARGARET, the Prince
of Wales, CLIFFORD, and NORTHUMBERLAND,
with Forces.*

Q. Mar. Welcome, my lord, to this brave town
of York.

Yonder’s the head of that arch-enemy,
That sought to be encompass’d with your crown :
‘ Doth not the object cheer your heart, my lord ?

‘ *K. Hen.* Ay, as the rocks cheer them that fear
their wreck ;—

To see this sight, it irks my very soul.—
Withhold revenge, dear God ! ’tis not my fault,
Not wittingly have I infring’d my vow.

Clif. My gracious liege, this too much lenity
And harmful pity, must be laid aside.
To whom do lions cast their gentle looks ?
Not to the beast that would usurp their den.
Whose hand is that the forest bear doth lick ?
Not his, that spoils her young before her face.
Who ’scapes the lurking serpent’s mortal sting ?
Not he, that sets his foot upon her back.
The smallest worm will turn, being trodden on ;
‘ And doves will peck, in safeguard of their brood.
Ambitious York did level at thy crown,
Thou smiling, while he knit his angry brows :
He, but a duke, would have his son a king,
And raise his issue, like a loving sire ;

⁴ *Why then it sorts,*] Why then things are as they should be.

Thou, being a king, bless'd with a goodly son,
 Didst yield consent to disinherit him,
 ' Which argued thee a most unloving father.
 Unreasonable creatures feed their young:
 And though man's face be fearful to their eyes,
 Yet, in protection of their tender ones,
 Who hath not seen them (even with those wings
 ' Which sometime they have us'd with fearful flight,)
 Make war with him that climb'd unto their nest,
 Offering their own lives in their young's defence?
 For shame, my liege, make them your precedent!
 Were it not pity that this goodly boy
 Should lose his birthright by his father's fault;
 And long hereafter say unto his child,—
What my great-grandfather and grandsire got,
My careless father fondly⁵ gave away?
 Ah, what a shame were this! Look on the boy;
 And let his manly face, which promiseth
 Successful fortune, steel thy melting heart,
 To hold thine own, and leave thine own with him.

K. Hen. Full well hath Clifford play'd the orator,
 Inferring arguments of mighty force.
 ' But, Clifford, tell me, didst thou never hear,—
 That things ill got had ever bad success?⁶
 And happy always was it for that son,
 Whose father⁷ for his hoarding went to hell?
 I'll leave my son my virtuous deeds behind;
 And 'would, my father had left me no more!
 For all the rest is held at such a rate,
 ' As brings a thousand-fold more care to keep,

⁵ ——— *fondly* ———] i. e. foolishly.

⁶ ——— *didst thou never hear,* —

That things ill got had ever bad success? &c.] The proverb quoted by his majesty on this occasion, seems to militate directly against his own argument, and shows that things ill got might have good success. M. MASON.

⁷ *Whose father, &c.]* Alluding to a common proverb:

“Happy the child whose father went to the devil.”

‘ Than in possession any jot of pleasure.
 Ah, cousin York ! ’ would thy best friends did know,
 ‘ How it doth grieve me that thy head is here !

‘ *Q. Mar.* My lord, cheer up your spirits ; our
 foes are nigh,
 ‘ And this soft courage makes your followers faint,
 ‘ You promis’d knighthood to our forward son ;
 ‘ Unsheathe your sword, and dub him presently.—
 Edward, kneel down.

K. Hen. Edward Plantagenet, arise a knight ;
 And learn this lesson,—Draw thy sword in right.

Prince. My gracious father, by your kingly leave,
 I’ll draw it as apparent to the crown,
 And in that quarrel use it to the death.

Clif. Why, that is spoken like a toward prince,

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Royal commanders, be in readiness :
 ‘ For, with a band of thirty thousand men,
 Comes Warwick, backing of the duke of York ;
 And, in the towns as they do march along,
 Proclaims him king, and many fly to him :
 ‘ Darraign^s your battle, for they are at hand.

Clif. I would, your highness would depart the
 field ;
 The queen hath best success when you are absent.

Q. Mar. Ay, good my lord, and leave us to our
 fortune.

K. Hen. Why, that’s my fortune too ; therefore
 I’ll stay.

North. Be it with resolution then to fight.

Prince. My royal father, cheer these noble lords,
 And hearten those that fight in your defence :
 Unsheathe your sword, good father ; cry, *Saint George !*

^s *Darraign* —] That is, *Range* your host, put your host in
 order.

March. Enter EDWARD, GEORGE, RICHARD, WARWICK, NORFOLK, MONTAGUE, and Soldiers.

‘ *Edw.* Now, perjur’d Henry! wilt thou kneel
for grace,

‘ And set thy diadem upon my head;

* Or bide the mortal fortune of the field?

Q. Mar. Go, rate thy minions, proud insulting
boy!

‘ Becomes it thee to be thus bold in terms,

‘ Before thy sovereign, and thy lawful king?

Edw. I am his king, and he should bow his knee;
I was adopted heir by his consent:

• Since when, his oath is broke; for, as I hear,

You—that are king, though he do wear the crown,—
Have caus’d him, by new act of parliament,

‘ To blot out me, and put his own son in.

‘ *Clif.* And reason too;

Who should succeed the father, but the son?

‘ *Rich.* Are you there, butcher?—O, I cannot
speak!

‘ *Clif.* Ay, crook-back; here I stand, to answer
thee,

‘ Or any he the proudest of thy sort.

the *Rich.* ’Twas you that kill’d young Rutland, was
it not?

t. *Clif.* Ay, and old York, and yet not satisfied.

our *Rich.* For God’s sake, lords, give signal to the
fight.

ore *War.* What say’st thou, Henry, wilt thou yield
the crown?

ds, ‘ *Q. Mar.* Why, how now, long-tongu’d War-
wick? dare you speak?

c! When you and I met at Saint Alban’s last,
Your legs did better service than your hands.

in *War.* Then ’twas my turn to fly, and now ’tis
thine.

Clif. You said so much before, and yet you fled.

War. 'Twas not your valour, Clifford, drove me thence.

' *North.* No, nor your manhood, that durst make you stay.

Rich. Northumberland, I hold thee reverently ;—
Break off the parle ; for scarce I can refrain
The execution of my big-swoln heart
Upon that Clifford, that cruel child-killer.

Clif. I slew thy father : Call'st thou him a child ?

Rich. Ay, like a dastard, and a treacherous coward,
As thou didst kill our tender brother Rutland ;
But, ere sun-set, I'll make thee curse the deed.

K. Hen. Have done with words, my lords, and hear me speak.

Q. Mar. Defy them then, or else hold close thy lips.

K. Hen. I pr'ythee, give no limits to my tongue ;
I am a king, and privileg'd to speak.

Clif. My liege, the wound, that bred this meeting here,

Cannot be cur'd by words ; therefore be still.

Rich. Then, executioner, unsheath thy sword :
By him that made us all, I am resolv'd,⁹

' That Clifford's manhood lies upon his tongue.

' *Edw.* Say, Henry, shall I have my right, or no ?
A thousand men have broke their fasts to-day,
That ne'er shall dine, unless thou yield the crown.

War. If thou deny, their blood upon thy head ;
For York in justice puts his armour on.

' *Prince.* If that be right, which Warwick says is right,

There is no wrong, but every thing is right.

Rich. Whoever got thee, there thy mother stands ;
For, well I wot, thou hast thy mother's tongue.

⁹ — *I am resolv'd,*] It is my firm persuasion ; I am no longer in doubt.

Q. Mar. But thou art neither like thy sire, nor
dam ;

But like a foul misshapen stigmatick,
Mark'd by the destinies to be avoided,
' As venom toads, or lizards' dreadful stings.

Rich. Iron of Naples, hid with English gilt,
Whose father bears the title of a king,
(As if a channel should be call'd the sea,)¹
' Sham'st thou not, knowing whence thou art ex-
traught,

' To let thy tongue detect² thy base-born heart ?

Edw. A wisp of straw³ were worth a thousand
crowns,

To make this shameless callet⁴ know herself.—

* Helen of Greece was fairer far than thou,

* Although thy husband may be Menelaus ;⁵

* And ne'er was Agamemnon's brother wrong'd

* By that false woman, as this king by thee.

' His father revell'd in the heart of France,
And tam'd the king, and made the Dauphin stoop ;

And, had he match'd according to his state,

He might have kept that glory to this day :

But when he took a beggar to his bed,

And grac'd thy poor sire with his bridal day ;

' Even then that sunshine brew'd a shower for him,

' That wash'd his father's fortunes forth of France,

And heap'd sedition on his crown at home.

¹ (*As if a channel should be call'd the sea,*)] A channel, in our author's time, signified what we now call a kennel.

² *To let thy tongue detect* —] To show thy meanness of birth by the indecency of language with which thou railest at my deformity. JOHNSON.

³ *A wisp of straw* —] An instrument of correction that might disgrace, but not hurt her. A wisp was also the punishment for a scold.

⁴ *To make this shameless callet* —] *Callet*, a lewd woman, a drab, perhaps so called from the French *calote*, which was a sort of head-dress worn by country girls.

⁵ *Menelaus ;*] i. e. a cuckold.

‘ For what hath broach’d this tumult, but thy pride?
 Hadst thou been meek, our title still had slept :
 And we, in pity of the gentle king,
 Had slipp’d our claim until another age.

‘ *Geo.* But, when we saw our sunshine made thy
 spring,

‘ And that thy summer bred us no increase,⁵
 We set the axe to thy usurping root :
 And though the edge hath something hit ourselves,
 ‘ Yet, know thou, since we have begun to strike,
 ‘ We’ll never leave, till we have hewn thee down,
 Or bath’d thy growing with our heated bloods.

Edw. And, in this resolution, I defy thee ;
 Not willing any longer conference,
 Since thou deny’st the gentle king to speak.—
 Sound trumpets !—let our bloody colours wave !—
 And either victory, or else a grave.

Q. Mar. Stay, Edward.

Edw. No, wrangling woman ; we’ll no longer stay ;
 These words will cost ten thousand lives to-day.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

*A Field of Battle⁶ between Towton and Saxton in
 Yorkshire.*

Alarums : Excursions. Enter WARWICK.

‘ *War.* Forspent with toil, as runners with a race,
 I lay me down a little while to breathe :

⁵ — we saw our sunshine made thy spring,

And that thy summer bred us no increase,] When we saw that
 by favouring thee we made thee grow in fortune, but that we re-
 ceived no advantage from thy fortune flourishing by our favour,
 we then resolved to destroy thee, and determined to try some
 other means, though our first efforts have failed.

⁶ *A Field of Battle, &c.]* We should read *near Towton*.
 Shakspeare has here, perhaps, intentionally thrown three dif-
 ferent actions into one.

For strokes receiv'd, and many blows repaid,
 Have robb'd my strong-knit sinews of their strength,
 ' And, spite of spite, needs must I rest awhile.

Enter EDWARD running.

Edw. Smile, gentle heaven! or strike, ungentle death!

' For this world frowns, and Edward's sun is clouded.

War. How now, my lord? what hap? what hope of good?

Enter GEORGE.

* *Geo.* Our hap is loss, our hope but sad despair;

' Our ranks are broke, and ruin follows us:

' What counsel give you, whither shall we fly?

' *Edw.* Bootless is flight, they follow us with wings;

' And weak we are, and cannot shun pursuit.

Enter RICHARD.

' *Rich.* Ah, Warwick, why hast thou withdrawn thyself?

' Thy brother's blood the thirsty earth hath drunk,

' Broach'd with the steely point of Clifford's lance:

' And, in the very pangs of death, he cried,—

' Like to a dismal clangor heard from far,—

' *Warwick, revenge! brother, revenge my death!*

' So underneath the belly of their steeds,

' That stain'd their fetlocks in his smoking blood,

' The noble gentleman gave up the ghost.

' *War.* Then let the earth be drunken with our blood:

I'll kill my horse because I will not fly.

* Why stand we like soft-hearted women here,

* Wailing our losses, whiles the foe doth rage;

* And look upon,⁷ as if the tragedy

⁷ And look upon,] And are mere spectators.

* Were play'd in jest by counterfeiting actors ?

' Here on my knee I vow to God above,

' I'll never pause again, never stand still,

' Till either death hath clos'd these eyes of mine,

' Or fortune given me measure of revenge.

Edw. O Warwick, I do bend my knee with thine;

' And, in this vow, do chain my soul to thine.—

* And, ere my knee rise from the earth's cold face,

* I throw my hands, mine eyes, my heart to thee,

Thou setter up and plucker down of kings !

' Beseeching thee,^a—if with thy will it stands,

' That to my foes this body must be prey,—

' Yet that thy brazen gates of heaven may open,

' And give sweet passage to my sinful soul !—

' Now, lords, take leave until we meet again,

Where-e'er it be, in heaven, or on earth.

' *Rich.* Brother, give me thy hand ;—and, gentle
Warwick,

' Let me embrace thee in my weary arms :—

' I, that did never weep, now melt with woe,

' That winter should cut off our spring-time so.

' *War.* Away, away ! Once more, sweet lords,
farewell.

' *Geo.* Yet let us all together to our troops,

' And give them leave to fly that will not stay ;

And call them pillars, that will stand to us ;

' And, if we thrive, promise them such rewards

' As victors wear at the Olympian games :

* This may plant courage in their quailing^b breasts ;

* For yet is hope of life, and victory.—

* Fore-slow no longer,^c make we hence amain.

[*Exeunt.*]

^a *Beseeching thee,*] That is, beseeching the divine power.

^b — *quailing* —] i. e. sinking into dejection.

^c *Fore-slow no longer,*] To *fore-slow* is to be dilatory, to loiter.

SCENE IV.

The same. Another Part of the Field.

Excursions. Enter RICHARD and CLIFFORD.

‘ *Rich.* Now, Clifford, I have singled thee alone :
 ‘ Suppose, this arm is for the duke of York,
 ‘ And this for Rutland ; both bound to revenge,
 ‘ Wert thou environ’d with a brazen wall.

Clif. Now, Richard, I am with thee here alone :
 This is the hand that stabb’d thy father York ;
 And this the hand that slew thy brother Rutland ;
 And here’s the heart, that triumphs in their death,
 And cheers these hands, that slew thy sire and brother,
 To execute the like upon thyself ;
 And so, have at thee.

[*They fight. WARWICK enters ; CLIFFORD flies.*

‘ *Rich.* Nay, Warwick, single out some other chase ;
 ‘ For I myself will hunt this wolf to death.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.

Another Part of the Field.

Alarum. Enter King HENRY.

* *K. Hen.* This battle fares like to the morning’s
 war,

* When dying clouds contend with growing light ;
 * What time the shepherd, blowing of his nails,
 * Can neither call it perfect day, nor night.
 ‘ Now sways it this way, like a mighty sea,
 ‘ Forc’d by the tide to combat with the wind ;
 ‘ Now sways it that way, like the self-same sea

‘ Forc’d to retire by fury of the wind :
 ‘ Sometime, the flood prevails ; and then, the wind :
 ‘ Now, one the better ; then, another best ;
 ‘ Both tugging to be victors, breast to breast,
 ‘ Yet neither conqueror, nor conquered :
 ‘ So is the equal poise of this fell war.
 * Here on this molehill, will I sit me down.
 * To whom God will, there be the victory !
 ‘ For Margaret my queen, and Clifford too,
 ‘ Have chid me from the battle ; swearing both,
 ‘ They prosper best of all when I am thence.
 ‘ ‘Would I were dead ! if God’s good will were so :
 ‘ For what is in this world, but grief and woe ?
 * O God ! methinks it were a happy life,²
 ‘ To be no better than a homely swain ;
 * To sit upon a hill as I do now,
 * To carve out dials quaintly, point by point,
 * Thereby to see the minutes how they run :
 * How many make the hour full complete,
 * How many hours bring about the day,
 * How many days will finish up the year,
 * How many years a mortal man may live.
 * When this is known, then to divide the times :
 * So many hours must I tend my flock ;
 * So many hours must I take my rest ;
 * So many hours must I cóntemplate ;
 * So many hours must I sport myself ;
 * So many days my ewes have been with young ;
 * So many weeks ere the poor fools will yeau ;
 * So many years ere I shall sheer the fleece :
 * So minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years,
 * Pass’d over to the end they were created,

² — *methinks, it were a happy life,*] This speech is mournful and soft, exquisitely suited to the character of the King, and makes a pleasing interchange, by affording, amidst the tumult and horror of the battle, an unexpected glimpse of rural innocence and pastoral tranquillity. JOHNSON.

old bring white hairs unto a quiet grave.
 what a life were this ! how sweet ! how lovely !
 es not the hawthorn bush a sweeter shade
 shepherds, looking on their silly sheep,
 in doth a rich embroider'd canopy
 kings, that fear their subjects' treachery ?
 yes it doth ; a thousand fold it doth.
 I to conclude,—the shepherd's homely curds,
 cold thin drink out of his leather bottle,
 wonted sleep under a fresh tree's shade,
 which secure and sweetly he enjoys,
 far beyond a prince's delicates,
 viands sparkling in a golden cup,
 body couched in a curious bed,
 en care, mistrust, and treason wait on him.

*um. Enter a Son that has killed his Father,³
 dragging in the dead body.*

I. Ill blows the wind, that profits no-body.—
 man, whom hand to hand I slew in fight,
 be possessed with some store of crowns :
 d I, that haply take them from him now,
 y yet ere night yield both my life and them
 some man else, as this dead man doth me.—
 o's this ?—O God ! it is my father's face,
 om in this conflict I unawares have kill'd.
 eavy times, begetting such events !
 n London by the king was I press'd forth ;
 father, being the earl of Warwick's man,
 ne on the part of York, press'd by his master ;
 I, who at his hands receiv'd my life,
 e by my hands of life bereaved him.—

ter a Son, &c.] These two horrible incidents are selected
 e the innumerable calamities of civil war. JOHNSON.
 he battle of Constantine and Maxentius, by Raphael, the
 of these incidents is introduced on a similar occasion.

‘ Pardon me, God, I knew not what I did !—

And pardon, father, for I knew not thee !—

* My tears shall wipe away these bloody marks ;

* And no more words, till they have flow’d their fill.

‘ *K. Hen.* O piteous spectacle ! O bloody times !

Whilst lions war, and battle for their dens,

‘ Poor harmless lambs abide their enmity,—

* Weep, wretched man, I’ll aid thee tear for tear ;

* And let our hearts, and eyes, like civil war,

* Be blind with tears, and break o’ercharg’d with grief.⁴

Enter a Father, who has killed his Son, with the Body in his Arms.

‘ *Fath.* Thou that so stoutly hast resisted me,

‘ Give me thy gold, if thou hast any gold ;

‘ For I have bought it with an hundred blows.—

‘ But let me see :—is this our foeman’s face ?

‘ Ah, no, no, no, it is mine only son !—

* Ah, boy, if any life be left in thee,

* Throw up thine eye ; see, see, what showers arise,

* Blown with the windy tempest of my heart,

* Upon thy wounds, that kill mine eye and heart !—

‘ O, pity, God, this miserable age !—

‘ What stratagems,⁵ how fell, how butcherly,

‘ Erroneous, mutinous, and unnatural,

‘ This deadly quarrel daily doth beget !—

‘ O boy, thy father gave thee life too soon,

⁴ *And let our hearts, and eyes, like civil war,*

Be blind with tears, and break o’ercharg’d with grief.] The meaning is here inaccurately expressed. The King intends to say that the state of their *hearts and eyes* shall be like that of the kingdom in a *civil war*, all shall be destroyed by power formed within themselves. JOHNSON.

⁵ *What stratagems,]* *Stratagem* is used by Shakspeare not merely to express the events and surprizes of war.—The word means in this place some *dreadful event*.

And hath bereft thee of thy life too late!⁶

K. Hen. Woe above woe! grief more than common grief!

O, that my death would stay these ruthless deeds!—

O pity, pity, gentle heaven, pity!—

he red rose and the white are on his face,

he fatal colours of our striving houses:

The one, his purple blood right well resembles;

The other, his pale cheeks, methinks, present:

Wither one rose, and let the other flourish!

If you contend, a thousand lives must wither.

Son. How will my mother, for a father's death,
'Take on with me,' and ne'er be satisfied?

Fath. How will my wife, for slaughter of my son,
Shed seas of tears, and ne'er be satisfied?

'*K. Hen.* How will the country, for these woful chances,

Misthink⁸ the king, and not be satisfied?

'*Son.* Was ever son, so ru'd a father's death?

'*Fath.* Was ever father, so bemoan'd a son?

'*K. Hen.* Was ever king, so griev'd for subjects' woe?

'Much is your sorrow; mine, ten times so much.

'*Son.* I'll bear thee hence, where I may weep my fill.

[*Exit, with the Body.*

* *Fath.* These arms of mine shall be thy winding-sheet;

* My heart, sweet boy, shall be thy sepulchre;

⁶ *O boy, thy father gave thee life too soon, &c.*] Of the various meanings given to these two lines, the following seems the most probable. Had the son been younger, he would have been precluded from the levy that brought him into the field; and had the father recognised him before the mortal blow, it would not have been too late to have saved him from death. HENLEY.

⁷ *Take on with me,*] To *take on* is a phrase still in use among the vulgar, and signifies—to persist in clamorous lamentation.

⁸ *Misthink,*] i. e. to think ill, unfavourably.

THIRD PART OF

* For from my heart thine image ne'er shall go.
 * My sighing breast shall be thy funeral bell;
 * And so obsequious will thy father be,⁹
 * Sad for the loss of thee, having no more,
 * As Priam was for all his valiant sons.
 I'll bear thee hence; and let them fight that will,
 For I have murder'd where I should not kill.

[Exit, with the Body.]

' *K. Hen.* Sad-hearted men, much overgone with
 care,
 ' Here sits a king more woful than you are.

*Alarums: Excursions. Enter Queen MARGARET,
 Prince of Wales, and EXETER.*

' *Prince.* Fly, father, fly! for all your friends are
 fled,

' And Warwick rages like a chafed bull:

' Away! for death doth hold us in pursuit.

' *Q. Mar.* Mount you, my lord, towards Berwick
 post amain:

' Edward and Richard, like a brace of greyhounds

' Having the fearful flying hare in sight,

' With fiery eyes, sparkling for very wrath,

' And bloody steel grasp'd in their ireful hands,

' Are at our backs; and therefore hence amain.

' *Ere.* Away! for vengeance comes along with
 them:

' Nay, stay not to expostulate, make speed;

Or else come after, I'll away before.

' *K. Hen.* Nay, take me with thee, good sweet
 Exeter;

' Not that I fear to stay, but love to go

' Whither the queen intends. Forward; away!

[Exeunt.]

⁹ And so obsequious will thy father be,] Obsequious is here
 careful of obsequies, or of funeral rites.

SCENE VI.

The same.

A loud Alarum. Enter CLIFFORD, wounded.

* *Clif.* Here burns my candle out, ay, here it dies,
Which, while it lasted, gave king Henry light.
O, Lancaster! I fear thy overthrow,
More than my body's parting with my soul.
My love, and fear, glew'd many friends to thee;
' And, now I fall, thy tough commixtures melt.
Impairing Henry, strength'ning mis-proud York,
The common people swarm like summer flies:
And whither fly the gnats, but to the sun?
And who shines now but Henry's enemies?
O Phœbus! hadst thou never given consent
That Phaeton should check thy fiery steeds,
Thy burning ear never had scorch'd the earth:
And Henry, had'st thou sway'd as kings should do,
Or as thy father, and his father, did,
Giving no ground unto the house of York,
* *They never then had sprung like summer flies;*
' I, and ten thousand in this luckless realm,
Had left no mourning widows for our death,
And thou this day hadst kept thy chair in peace.
For what doth cherish weeds but gentle air?
' And what makes robbers bold, but too much lenity?
Bootless are plaints, and careless are my wounds:
* *No way to fly, nor strength to hold out flight;*
The foe is merciless, and will not pity;
For, at their hands, I have deserv'd no pity.
' The air hath got into my deadly wounds,
And much effuse of blood doth make me faint:—
Come, York, and Richard, Warwick, and the rest;
* *I stabb'd your fathers' bosoms, split my breast.*
[*He faints.*

Alarum and Retreat. Enter EDWARD, GEORGE, RICHARD, MONTAGUE, WARWICK, and Soldiers.

‘ *Edw.* Now breathe we, lords ; good fortune bids us pause,

‘ And smooth the frowns of war with peaceful looks.—

* Some troops pursue the bloody-minded queen ;—

‘ That led calm Henry, though he were a king,

‘ As doth a sail, fill’d with a fretting gust,

‘ Command an argosy to stem the waves.

‘ But think you, lords, that Clifford fled with them?

War. No, ’tis impossible he should escape :

For, though before his face I speak the words,

Your brother Richard mark’d him for the grave :

‘ And, wheresoe’er he is, he’s surely dead.

[CLIFFORD groans, and dies.

Edw. Whose soul is that which takes her heavy leave?

Rich. A deadly groan, like life and death’s departing.¹

Edw. See who it is : and, now the battle’s ended, If friend, or foe, let him be gently us’d.

‘ *Rich.* Revoke that doom of mercy, for ’tis Clifford ;

‘ Who not contented that he lopp’d the branch

‘ In hewing Rutland when his leaves put forth,

‘ But set his murdering knife unto the root

‘ From whence that tender spray did sweetly spring,

‘ I mean, our princely father, duke of York.

War. From off the gates of York fetch down the head,

Your Father’s head, which Clifford placed there :

‘ Instead whereof, let this supply the room ;

¹ — like life and death’s departing.] *Departing for separation.*

Measure for measure must be answered.

Edw. Bring forth that fatal screech-owl to our house,

‘ That nothing sung but death to us and ours :
 ‘ Now death shall stop his dismal threatening sound,
 ‘ And his ill-boding tongue no more shall speak.

[*Attendants bring the Body forward.*]

War. I think his understanding is bereft :—
 Speak, Clifford, dost thou know who speaks to thee ?—

Dark cloudy death o’ershades his beams of life,
 And he nor sees, nor hears us what we say.

Rich. O, would he did ! and so, perhaps, he doth ;
 ‘ Tis but his policy to counterfeit,
 ‘ Because he would avoid such bitter taunts
 ‘ Which in the time of death he gave our father.

Geo. If so thou think’st, vex him with eager words.⁹

Rich. Clifford, ask mercy, and obtain no grace.

Edw. Clifford, repent in bootless penitence.

War. Clifford, devise excuses for thy faults.

Geo. While we devise fell tortures for thy faults.

‘ *Rich.* Thou didst love York, and I am son to York.

Edw. Thou pitied’st Rutland, I will pity thee.

Geo. Where’s captain Margaret, to fence you now ?

War. They mock thee, Clifford ! swear as thou wast wont.

‘ *Rich.* What, not an oath ? nay, then the world goes hard,

‘ When Clifford cannot spare his friends an oath :—

I know by that, he’s dead ; And, by my soul,

‘ If this right hand would buy two hours’ life,
 That I in all despite might rail at him,

⁹ ——— eager words.] Sour words ; words of asperity.

‘ This hand should chop it off; and with the issuing
blood

Stifle the villain, whose unstaunched thirst
York and young Rutland could not satisfy.

War. Ay, but he’s dead: Off with the traitor’s
head,

And rear it in the place your father’s stands.—

And now to London with triumphant march,

There to be crowned England’s royal king.

‘ From whence shall Warwick cut the sea to France,

And ask the lady Bona for thy queen :

So shalt thou sinew both these lands together ;

‘ And, having France thy friend, thou shalt not
dread

The scatter’d foe, that hopes to rise again ;

For though they cannot greatly sting to hurt,

Yet look to have them buz, to offend thine ears.

First, will I see the coronation ;

‘ And then to Britany I’ll cross the sea,

To effect this marriage, so it please my lord.

Edw. Even as thou wilt, sweet Warwick, let it be: .

* For on thy shoulder do I build my seat ;

* And never will I undertake the thing,

* Wherein thy counsel and consent is wanting.—

‘ Richard, I will create thee duke of Gloster ;—

‘ And George, of Clarence ;—Warwick, as ourself,

‘ Shall do, and undo, as him pleaseth best.

Rich. Let me be duke of Clarence ; George, of
Gloster ;

For Gloster’s dukedom is too ominous.³

War. Tut, that’s a foolish observation ;

Richard, be duke of Gloster ; Now to London,

To see these honours in possession. [*Exeunt.*

³ — *too ominous.*] Alluding, perhaps, to the deaths of Thomas of Woodstock, and Humphrey, Dukes of Gloster.

ACT III.

SCENE I. *A Chace in the North of England.*

Enter Two Keepers, with Cross-bows in their Hands.

' 1 *Keep.* Under this thick-grown brake¹ we'll
shroud ourselves ;

' For through this laund² anon the deer will come ;

' And in this covert will we make our stand,

' Culling the principal of all the deer.

* 2 *Keep.* I'll stay above the hill, so both may
shoot.

* 1 *Keep.* That cannot be ; the noise of thy
cross-bow

* Will scare the herd, and so my shoot is lost.

* Here stand we both, and aim we at the best :

* And, for the time shall not seem tedious,

* I'll tell thee what befell me on a day,

* In this self-place where now we mean to stand.

' 2 *Keep.* Here comes a man, let's stay till he be
past.

Enter King HENRY, disguised, with a Prayer-book.

K. Hen. From Scotland am I stol'n, even of pure
love,

' To greet mine own land with my wishful sight,

' No, Harry, Harry, 'tis no land of thine ;

* Thy place is fill'd, thy scepter wrung from thee,

* Thy balm wash'd off, wherewith thou wast
anointed :

¹ — brake —] A brake anciently signified a thicket.

² — this laund —]. Laund means the same as lawn ; a plain
extended between woods.

No bending knee will call thee Cæsar now,
 ' No humble suitors press to speak for right,
 * No, not a man comes for redress of thee ;
 For how can I help them, and not myself?

' 1 *Keep.* Ay, here's a deer whose skin's a keeper's fee :

' This is the *quondam* king ; let's seize upon him.

* *K. Hen.* Let me embrace these sour adversities ;

* For wise men say, it is the wisest course.

* 2 *Keep.* Why linger we ? let us lay hands upon him.

* 1 *Keep.* Forbear a while ; we'll hear a little more.

K. Hen. My queen, and son, are gone to France for aid ;

And, as I hear, the great commanding Warwick

' Is thither gone, to crave the French king's sister

' To wife for Edward : If this news be true,

' Poor queen, and son, your labour is but lost ;

' For Warwick is a subtle orator,

' And Lewis a prince soon won with moving words.

' By this account, then, Margaret may win him ;

' For she's a woman to be pitied much :

* Her sighs will make a battery in his breast ;

* Her tears will pierce into a marble heart ;

* The tiger will be mild, while she doth mourn ;

* And Nero will be tainted with remorse,

* To hear, and see, her plaints, her brinish tears.

* Ay, but she's come to beg ; Warwick, to give :

She, on his left side, craving aid for Henry ;

He, on his right, asking a wife for Edward.

She weeps, and says—her Henry is depos'd ;

He smiles, and says—his Edward is install'd ;

* That she, poor wretch, for grief can speak no more :

* Whiles Warwick tells his title, smooths the wrong,

* Inferreth arguments of mighty strength ;

* And, in conclusion, wins the king from her,

- * With promise of his sister, and what else,
- * To strengthen and support king Edward's place.
- * O Margaret,⁶ thus 'twill be ; and thou, poor soul,
- * Art then forsaken, as thou went'st forlorn.

2 *Keep.* Say, what art thou, that talk'st of kings
and queens ?

' *K. Hen.* More than I seem, and less than I was
born to :

' A man at least, for less I should not be ;
And men may talk of kings, and why not I ?

' 2 *Keep.* Ay, but thou talk'st as if thou wert a
king.

' *K. Hen.* Why, so I am, in mind ; and that's
enough.

2 *Keep.* But, if thou be a king, where is thy
crown ?

K. Hen. My crown is in my heart, not on my
head ;

* Not deck'd with diamonds, and Indian stones,

* Nor to be seen : ' my crown is call'd, content ;

' A crown it is, that seldom kings enjoy.

' 2 *Keep.* Well, if you be a king crown'd with
content,

Your crown content, and you, must be contented

' To go along with us : for, as we think,

' You are the king, king Edward hath depos'd ;

' And we his subjects, sworn in all allegiance,

' Will apprehend you as his enemy.

* *K. Hen.* But did you never swear, and break an
oath ?

* 2 *Keep.* No, never such an oath, nor will not
now.

* *K. Hen.* Where did you dwell, when I was
king of England ?

⁶ O Margaret, &c.] The piety of Henry scarce interests us
more for his misfortunes, than this his constant solicitude for
the welfare of his deceitful Queen. STEEVENS.

* 2 *Keep.* Here in this country, where we now remain.

* *K. Hen.* I was anointed king at nine months old;

* My father, and my grandfather, were kings;

* And you were sworn true subjects unto me:

* And, tell me then, have you not broke your oaths?

* 1 *Keep.* No;

For we were subjects, but while you were king.

* *K. Hen.* Why, am I dead? do I not breathe a man?

* Ah, simple men, you know not what you swear.

* Look, as I blow this feather from my face,

* And as the air blows it to me again,

* Obeying with my wind when I do blow,

* And yielding to another when it blows,

* Commanded always by the greater gust;

* Such is the lightness of you common men.

* But do not break your oaths; for, of that sin

* My mild entreaty shall not make you guilty.

* Go where you will, the king shall be commanded;

* And be you kings; command, and I'll obey.

* 1 *Keep.* We are true subjects to the king, king Edward.

* *K. Hen.* So would you be again to Henry,

* If he were seated as king Edward is.

1 *Keep.* We charge you, in God's name, and in the king's,

To go with us unto the officers.

* *K. Hen.* In God's name, lead; your king's name be obey'd:

* And what God will, then let your king perform;

* And what he will, I humbly yield unto.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

London. *A Room in the Palace.*

Enter King EDWARD, GLOSTER, CLARENCE, and Lady GREY.

K. Edw. Brother of Gloster, at Saint Albans' field

' This lady's husband, sir John Grey, was slain,
His lands then seiz'd on by the conqueror :

Her suit is now, to repossess those lands ;

' Which we in justice cannot well deny,

Because in quarrel of the house of York

' The worthy gentleman did lose his life.

Glo. Your highness shall do well, to grant her suit;

* It were dishonour, to deny it her.

K. Edw. It were no less; but yet I'll make a pause.

' *Glo.* Yea! is it so?

I see, the lady hath a thing to grant,

Before the king will grant her humble suit.

Clar. He knows the game; How true he keeps
the wind! *[Aside.]*

Glo. Silence! *[Aside.]*

' *K. Edw.* Widow, we will consider' of your suit;

' And come some other time, to know our mind.

' *L. Grey.* Right gracious lord, I cannot brook
delay :

' May it please your highness to resolve me now ;

' And what your pleasure is, shall satisfy me.

' *Glo.* *[Aside.]* Ay, widow? then I'll warrant
you all your lands,

' An if what pleases him, shall pleasure you.

¹ *Widow, we will consider —*] This is a very lively and spritely dialogue; the reciprocation is quicker than is common in Shakespeare. JOHNSON.

* Fight closer, or, good faith, you'll catch a blow.

* *Clar.* I fear her not, unless she chance to fall.

[*Aside.*

* *Glo.* God forbid that ! for he'll take vantages.

[*Aside.*

* *K. Edw.* How many children hast thou, widow ?
tell me.

Clar. I think, he means to beg a child of her.

[*Aside.*

Glo. Nay, whip me then ; he'll rather give her
two.

[*Aside.*

L. Grey. Three, my most gracious lord.

Glo. You shall have four, if you'll be rul'd by
him.

[*Aside.*

* *K. Edw.* 'Twere pity, they should lose their fa-
ther's land.

L. Grey. Be pitiful, dread lord, and grant it then.

K. Edw. Lords, give us leave ; I'll try this widow's
wit.

Glo. Ay, good leave have you ;^a for you will have
leave,

* Till youth take leave, and leave you to the crutch.

[*GLOSTER and CLARENCE retire to the other side.*

* *K. Edw.* Now tell me, madam, do you love
your children ?

* *L. Grey.* Ay, full as dearly as I love myself.

* *K. Edw.* And would you not do much, to do
them good ?

* *L. Grey.* To do them good, I would sustain
some harm.

* *K. Edw.* Then get your husband's lands, to do
them good.

* *L. Grey.* Therefore I came unto your majesty.

K. Edw. I'll tell you how these lands are to be got.

^a — good leave have you ;] *Good leave*, are words implying
readiness of assent.

- * *L. Grey.* So shall you bind me to your highness' service.
- * *K. Edw.* What service wilt thou do me, if I give them?
- * *L. Grey.* What you command, that rests in me to do.
- * *K. Edw.* But you will take exceptions to my boon.
- * *L. Grey.* No, gracious lord, except I cannot do it.
- * *K. Edw.* Ay, but thou canst do what I mean to ask.
- * *L. Grey.* Why, then I will do what your grace commands.
- * *Glo.* He plies her hard; and much rain wears the marble. [*Aside.*]
- * *Clar.* As red as fire! nay, then her wax must melt. [*Aside.*]
- L. Grey.* Why stops my lord? shall I not hear my task?
- K. Edw.* An easy task; 'tis but to love a king.
- L. Grey.* That's soon perform'd, because I am a subject.
- K. Edw.* Why then, thy husband's lands I freely give thee.
- L. Grey.* I take my leave with many thousand thanks.
- Glo.* The match is made; she seals it with a curt'sy.
- * *K. Edw.* But stay thee, 'tis the fruits of love I mean.
- * *L. Grey.* The fruits of love I mean, my loving liege.
- * *K. Edw.* Ay, but, I fear me, in another sense. What love, think'st thou, I sue so much to get?
- * *L. Grey.* My love till death, my humble thanks, my prayers;

‘ That love, which virtue begs, and virtue grants.

K. Edw. No, by my troth, I did not mean such love.

* *L. Grey.* Why, then you mean not as I thought you did.

* *K. Edw.* But now you partly may perceive my mind.

* *L. Grey.* My mind will never grant what I perceive

* Your highness aims at, if I aim aright.

K. Edw. To tell thee plain, I am to lie with thee.

* *L. Grey.* To tell you plain, I had rather lie in prison.

K. Edw. Why, then thou shalt not have thy husband's lands.

L. Grey. Why, then mine honesty shall be my dower;

For by that loss I will not purchase them.

‘ *K. Edw.* Therein thou wrong'st thy children mightily.

L. Grey. Herein your highness wrongs both them and me.

But, mighty lord, this merry inclination

‘ Accords not with the sadness⁹ of my suit;

Please you dismiss me, either with ay, or no.

K. Edw. Ay; if thou wilt say ay, to my request:

No; if thou dost say no, to my demand.

L. Grey. Then, no, my lord. My suit is at an end.

‘ *Glo.* The widow likes him not, she knits her brows. [Aside.]

Clar. He is the bluntest wooer in Christiendom.

[Aside.]
‘ *K. Edw.* [Aside.] Her looks do argue her replete with modesty;

* Her words do show her wit incomparable:

⁹ — the sadness—] i. e. the seriousness.

* All her perfections challenge sovereignty :
 One way, or other, she is for a king ;
 And she shall be my love, or else my queen.—
 Say, that king Edward take thee for his queen ?

L. Grey. 'Tis better said than done, my gracious lord :

I am a subject fit to jest withal,
 But far unfit to be a sovereign.

K. Edw. Sweet widow, by my state I swear to thee,
 I speak no more than what my soul intends ;
 And that is, to enjoy thee for my love.

L. Grey. And that is more than I will yield unto :
 'I know, I am too mean to be your queen :
 And yet too good to be your concubine.

K. Edw. You cavil, widow ; I did mean, my queen.

L. Grey. 'Twill grieve your grace, my sons should
 call you—father.

K. Edw. No more, than when thy daughters call
 thee mother.

Thou art a widow, and thou hast some children :
 And, by God's mother, I, being but a bachelor,
 Have other some : why, 'tis a happy thing
 To be the father unto many sons.

Answer no more, for thou shalt be my queen.

Glo. The ghostly father now hath done his shrift.
[*Aside.*

Clar. When he was made a shriver, 'twas for
 shift. [*Aside.*

K. Edw. Brothers, you muse what chat we two
 have had.

* *Glo.* The widow likes it not, for she looks sad.

K. Edw. You'd think it strange if I should marry
 her.

Clar. To whom, my lord ?

K. Edw. Why, Clarence, to myself.

Glo. That would be ten day's wonder, at the least.

Clar. That's a day longer than a wonder lasts.

Glo. By so much is the wonder in extremes.

K. Edw. Well, jest on, brothers : I can tell you both,

Her suit is granted for her husband's lands.

Enter a Nobleman.

Nob. My gracious lord, Henry your foe is taken,
' And brought your prisoner to your palace gate.

K. Edw. Sec, that he be convey'd unto the
Tower :—

' And go we, brothers, to the man that took him,

' To question of his apprehension.—

' Widow, go you along;—Lords, use her honourable.

[*Exeunt King EDWARD, Lady GREY, CLARENCE,
and Lord.*]

Glo. Ay, Edward will use women honourably.

' Would he were wasted, marrow, bones, and all,

' That from his loins no hopeful branch may spring,

' To cross me from the golden time I look for !

' And yet, between my soul's desire, and me,

* (The lustful Edward's title buried,)

' Is Clarence, Henry, and his son young Edward,

' And all the unlook'd-for issue of their bodies,

' To take their rooms, ere I can place myself :

A cold premeditation for my purpose !

* Why, then I do but dream on sovereignty ;

* Like one that stands upon a promontory,

* And spies a far-off shore where he would tread,

* Wishing his foot were equal with his eye ;

* And chides the sea that sunders him from thence,

* Saying—he'll lade it dry to have his way :

* So do I wish the crown, being so far off ;

* And so I chide the means that keep me from it ;

* And so I say—I'll cut the causes off,

* Flattering me with impossibilities.—

* My eye's too quick, my heart o'erweens too much,

* Unless my hand and strength could equal them.
 * Well, say there is no kingdom then for Richard ;
 * What other pleasure can the world afford ?
 ' I'll make my heaven in a lady's lap,
 ' And deck my body in gay ornaments,
 And witch sweet ladies with my words and looks.
 ' O miserable thought ! and more unlikely,
 ' Than to accomplish twenty golden crowns !
 Why, love forswore me in my mother's womb :
 ' And, for I should not deal in her soft laws,
 ' She did corrupt frail nature with some bribe
 ' To shrink mine arm up like a wither'd shrub ;
 ' To make an envious mountain on my back,
 Where sits deformity to mock my body ;
 ' To shape my legs of an unequal size ;
 * To disproportion me in every part,
 * Like to a chaos, or an unlick'd bear-whelp,¹
 * That carries no impression like the dam.
 And am I then a man to be belov'd ?
 ' O, monstrous fault, to harbour such a thought !
 * Then, since this earth affords no joy to me,
 * But to command, to check, to o'erbear such
 * As are of better person than myself,²
 * I'll make my heaven—to dream upon the crown ;

¹ — *unlick'd bear-whelp,*] It was an opinion which, in spite of its absurdity, prevailed long, that the bear brings forth only shapeless lumps of animated flesh, which she licks into the form of bears. It is now well known that the whelps of the bear are produced in the same state with those of other creatures.

² — *to o'erbear such*

As are of better person than myself,] Richard speaks here the language of nature. Whoever is stigmatized with deformity has a constant source of envy in his mind, and would counter-balance by some other superiority those advantages which he feels himself to want. Bacon remarks that the deformed are commonly daring ; and it is almost proverbially observed that they are ill-natured. The truth is, that the deformed, like all other men, are displeased with inferiority, and endeavour to gain ground by good or bad means, as they are virtuous or corrupt. JOHNSON.

* And, whiles I live, to account this world but hell,
 * Until my mis-shap'd trunk that bears this head,
 * Be round impaled with a glorious crown.
 * And yet I know not how to get the crown,
 * For many lives stand between me and home :
 * And I,—like one lost in a thorny wood,
 * That rents the thorns, and is rent with the thorns;
 * Seeking a way, and straying from the way :
 * Not knowing how to find the open air,
 * But toiling desperately to find it out,—
 * Torment myself to catch the English crown :
 * And from that torment I will free myself,
 * Or hew my way out with a bloody axe.
 Why, I can smile, and murder while I smile :
 ' And cry, content, to that which grieves my heart ;
 * And wet my cheeks with artificial tears,
 * And frame my face to all occasions.
 * I'll drown more sailors than the mermaid shall ;
 * I'll slay more gazers than the basilisk ;
 * I'll play the orator as well as Nestor,
 * Deceive more slyly than Ulysses could,
 * And, like a Sinon, take another Troy :
 I can add colours to the camelion ;
 ' Change shapes, with Proteus, for advantages,
 ' And set the murd'rous Machiavel to school.
 Can I do this, and cannot get a crown ?
 ' Tut ! were it further off, I'll pluck it down.

[Exit]

SCENE III.

France. *A Room in the Palace.*

Flourish. Enter LEWIS the French King, and Lady BONA, attended; the King takes his State. Then enter Queen MARGARET, Prince EDWARD, her Son, and the earl of OXFORD.

* *K. Lew.* Fair queen of England, worthy Margaret,
[*Rising.*

* Sit down with us; it ill befits thy state,

* And birth, that thou should'st stand, while Lewis doth sit.

* *Q. Mar.* No, mighty king of France; now Margaret

* Must strike her sail, and learn awhile to serve,

* Where kings command. I was, I must confess,

* Great Albion's queen in former golden days:

* But now mischance hath trod my title down,

* And with dishonour laid me on the ground;

* Where I must take like seat unto my fortune,

* And to my humble seat conform myself.

* *K. Lew.* Why, say, fair queen, whence springs this deep despair?

* *Q. Mar.* From such a cause as fills mine eyes with tears,

* And stops my tongue, while heart is drown'd in cares.

* *K. Lew.* Whate'er it be, be thou still like thyself,

* And sit thee by our side: yield not thy neck
[*Seats her by him.*

* To fortune's yoke, but let thy dauntless mind

* Still ride in triumph over all mischance,

* Be plain, queen Margaret, and tell thy grief;

* It shall be eas'd, if France can yield relief.

* *Q. Mar.* Those gracious words revive my drooping thoughts,

- * And give my tongue-tied sorrows leave to speak.
- * Now, therefore, be it known to noble Lewis,—
- * That Henry, sole possessor of my love,
- * Is, of a king, become a banish'd man,
- * And forc'd to live in Scotland a forlorn ;
- * While proud ambitious Edward, duke of York,
- * Usurps the regal title, and the seat
- * Of England's true-anointed lawful king.
- * This is the cause, that I, poor Margaret,—
- * With this my son, prince Edward, Henry's heir,—
- * Am come to crave thy just and lawful aid ;
- * And, if thou fail us, all our hope is done :
- * Scotland hath will to help, but cannot help ;
- * Our people and our peers are both misled,
- * Our treasure seiz'd, our soldiers put to flight,
- * And, as thou see'st, ourselves in heavy plight.
- * *K. Lew.* Renowned queen, with patience calm
the storm,
- * While we bethink a means to break it off.
- * *Q. Mar.* The more we stay, the stronger grows
our foe.
- * *K. Lew.* The more I stay, the more I'll succour
thee.
- * *Q. Mar.* O, but impatience waiteth on true
sorrow :
- * And see, where comes the breeder of my sorrow.

Enter WARWICK attended.

* *K. Lew.* What's he, approacheth boldly to our
presence ?

Q. Mar. Our earl of Warwick, Edward's greatest
friend.

K. Lew. Welcome, brave Warwick ! What brings
thee to France ?

[*Descending from his State. Queen MARGARET
rises.*]

* *Q. Mar.* Ay, now begins a second storm to rise;
 * For this is he, that moves both wind and tide.

‘ *War.* From worthy Edward, king of Albion,
 My lord and sovereign, and thy vowed friend,
 I come,—in kindness, and unfeigned love,—
 First, to do greetings to thy royal person;
 And, then, to crave a league of amity;
 And, lastly, to confirm that amity
 With nuptial knot, if thou vouchsafe to grant
 That virtuous lady Bona, thy fair sister,
 To England’s king in lawful marriage.

‘ *Q. Mar.* If that go forward, Henry’s hope is done.

War. And, gracious madam, [*To BONA.*] in our
 king’s behalf,

‘ I am commanded, with your leave and favour,
 Humbly to kiss your hand, and with my tongue
 To tell the passion of my sovereign’s heart;
 Where fame, late entering at his heedful ears,
 Hath plac’d thy beauty’s image, and thy virtue.

Q. Mar. King Lewis,—and lady Bona,—hear me
 speak,

‘ Before you answer Warwiek. His demand
 * Springs not from Edward’s well-meant honest love,
 * But from deceit, bred by necessity;
 * For how can tyrants safely govern home,
 * Unless abroad they purchase great alliance?
 * To prove him tyrant, this reason may suffice,—
 * That Henry liveth still: but were he dead,
 * Yet here prince Edward stands, king Henry’s son.
 * Look therefore, Lewis, that by this league and
 marriage

* Thou draw not on thy danger and dishonour:
 * For though usurpers sway the rule a while,
 * Yet heavens are just, and time suppresseth wrongs.

War. Injurious Margaret!

Prince.

And why not queen?

War. Because thy father Henry did usurp;

And thou no more art prince, than she is queen.

Oxf. Then Warwick disannuls great John of Gaunt,
Which did subdue the greatest part of Spain;
And, after John of Gaunt, Henry the fourth,
' Whose wisdom was a mirror to the wisest;
And, after that wise prince, Henry the Fifth,
Who by his prowess conquered all France:
From these our Henry lineally descends.

War. Oxford, how haps it, in this smooth discourse,
You told not, how Henry the sixth had lost
All that which Henry the fifth had gotten?
Methinks, these peers of France should smile at that.
But for the rest,—You tell a pedigree
Of threescore and two years; a silly time
To make prescription for a kingdom's worth.

' *Oxf.* Why, Warwick, canst thou speak against
thy liege,

' Whom thou obey'dst thirty and six years,
And not bewray thy treason with a blush?

War. Can Oxford, that did ever fence the right,
Now buckler falsehood with a pedigree?
For shame, leave Henry, and call Edward king.

' *Oxf.* Call him my king, by whose injurious doom
' My elder brother, the lord Aubrey Vere,
Was done to death? and more than so, my father,
Even in the downfall of his mellow'd years,
' When nature brought him to the door of death?
No, Warwick, no; while life upholds this arm,
This arm upholds the house of Lancaster.

War. And I the house of York.

K. Lew. Queen Margaret, prince Edward, and
Oxford,

' Vouchsafe, at our request, to stand aside,
' While I use further conference with Warwick.

* *Q. Mar.* Heaven grant, that Warwick's words
bewitch him not!

[Retiring with the Prince and Oxford.]

' *K. Lew.* Now, Warwick, tell me, even upon thy conscience,

' Is Edward your true king? for I were loath,

' To link with him that were not lawful chosen.

War. Thereon I pawn my credit and mine honour.

K. Lew. But is he gracious in the people's eye?

War. The more, that Henry was unfortunate.³

K. Lew. Then further,—all dissembling set aside,

' Tell me for truth the measure of his love

' Unto our sister Bona.

War. Such it seems,

As may bescem a monarch like himself.

Myself have often heard him say, and swear,—

That this his love was an eternal plant;

Whereof the root was fix'd in virtue's ground,

The leaves and fruit maintain'd with beauty's sun;

Exempt from envy, but not from disdain,⁴

Unless the lady Bona quit his pain.

K. Lew. Now, sister, let us hear your firm resolve.

Bona. Your grant, or your denial, shall be mine:—

Yet I confess, [*To WAR.*] that often ere this day,

When I have heard your king's desert recounted,

Mine ear hath tempted judgment to desire.

* *K. Lew.* Then, Warwick, thus,—Our sister shall be Edward's;

³ — that Henry was unfortunate.] He means, that Henry was unsuccessful in war, having lost his dominions in France, &c.

⁴ Exempt from envy, but not from disdain,] Envy is always supposed to have some fascinating or blasting power; and to be out of the reach of envy is therefore a privilege belonging only to great excellence. I know not well why *envy* is mentioned here, or whose *envy* can be meant; but the meaning is, that his love is superior to *envy*, and can feel no blast from the lady's *disdain*. Or that, if Bona refuse to *quit* or *requite* his pain, his love may turn to *disdain*, though the consciousness of his own merit will exempt him from the pangs of *envy*. JOHNSON.

I believe *envy* is in this place, as in many others, put for *malice* or *hatred*. His situation places him above these, though it cannot secure him from female *disdain*. STEEVENS.

* And now forthwith shall articles be drawn
 * Touching the jointure that your king must make,
 * Which with her dowry shall be counterpois'd :—
 Draw near, Queen Margaret, and be a witness,
 That Bona shall be wife to the English king.

Prince. To Edward, but not to the English king.

* *Q. Mar.* Deceitful Warwick ! it was thy device

* By this alliance to make void my suit ;
 * Before thy coming, Lewis was Henry's friend.

* *K. Lew.* And still is friend to him and Margaret:

* But if your title to the crown be weak,—
 * As may appear by Edward's good success,—
 * Then 'tis but reason that I be releas'd
 * From giving aid, which late I promised.
 * Yet shall you have all kindness at my hand,
 * That your estate requires, and mine can yield.

War. Henry now lives in Scotland, at his ease ;
 Where having nothing, nothing he can lose.
 And as for you yourself, our *quondam* queen,—
 You have a father able⁵ to maintain you ;
 And better 'twere, you troubled him than France.

* *Q. Mar.* Peace, impudent and shameless Warwick, peace ;

* Proud setter-up and puller-down of kings !
 * I will not hence, till with my talk and tears,
 * Both full of truth, I make king Lewis behold
 * Thy sly conveyance,⁶ and my lord's false love ;
 * For both of you are birds of self-same feather.

[*A Horn sounded within.*

K. Lew. Warwick, this is some post to us, or thee.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. My lord ambassador, these letters are for you ;

⁵ *You have a father able* —] This seems ironical. The poverty of Margaret's father is a very frequent topick of reproach.

⁶ *Thy sly conveyance,*] Conveyance is *juggling*, and thence is taken for artifice and fraud.

Sent from your brother, marquis Montague.
 These from our king unto your majesty.—
 And, madam, these for you ; from whom, I know
 not.

[To MARGARET. *They all read their letters.*

Oxf. I like it well, that our fair queen and mistress
 Smiles at her news, while Warwick frowns at his.

Prince. Nay, mark, how Lewis stamps as he were
 nettled :

* I hope, all's for the best.

K. Lew. Warwick, what are thy news ? and
 yours, fair queen ?

* *Q. Mar.* Mine, such as fill my heart with un-
 hop'd joys.

War. Mine, full of sorrow and heart's discontent.

K. Lew. What ! has your king married the lady
 Grey ?

* And now, to sooth your forgery and his,⁷

* Sends me a paper to persuade me patience ?

* Is this the alliance that he seeks with France ?

* Dare he presume to scorn us in this manner ?

* *Q. Mar.* I told your majesty as much before :

This proveth Edward's love, and Warwick's honesty.

War. King Lewis, I here protest, in sight of
 heaven,

And by the hope I have of heavenly bliss,—

That I am clear from this misdeed of Edward's ;

No more my king, for he dishonours me ;

But most himself, if he could see his shame,—

Did I forget, that by the house of York

My father came untimely to his death ?

Did I let pass the abuse done to my niece ?

Did I impale him with the regal crown ?

* Did I put Henry from his native right ;

⁷ — to sooth your forgery and his,] To soften it, to make it
 more endurable : or perhaps, to sooth us, and to prevent our
 being exasperated by your forgery and his. MALONE.

' And am I guerdon'd⁸ at the last with shame?
 * Shame on himself! for my desert is honour.
 * And, to repair my honour lost for him,
 * I here renounce him, and return to Henry:
 ' My noble queen, let former grudges pass,
 And henceforth I am thy true servitor;
 I will revenge his wrong to lady Bona,
 And replant Henry in his former state.

Q. Mar. Warwick, these words have turn'd my
 hate to love;

' And I forgive and quite forget old faults,
 ' And joy that thou becom'st king Henry's friend.

War. So much his friend, ay, his unfeigned
 friend,

That, if king Lewis vouchsafe to furnish us
 With some few bands of chosen soldiers,
 I'll undertake to land them on our coast,
 And force the tyrant from his seat by war.

'Tis not his new-made bride shall succour him;

* And as for Clarence,—as my letters tell me,

* He's very likely now to fall from him;

* For matching more for wanton lust than honour,

* Or than for strength and safety of our country.

* *Bona.* Dear brother, how shall Bona be reveng'd,

* But by thy help to this distressed queen?

* *Q. Mar.* Renowned prince, how shall poor
 Henry live,

* Unless thou rescue him from foul despair?

* *Bona.* My quarrel, and this English queen's,
 are one.

* *War.* And mine, fair lady Bona, joins with yours.

* *K. Lew.* And mine, with hers, and thine, and
 Margaret's.

Therefore, at last, I firmly am resolv'd,
 You shall have aid.

⁸ — *guerdon'd* —] i. e. rewarded.

* *Q. Mar.* Let me give humble thanks for all at once.

K. Lew. Then England's messenger, return in post;
And tell false Edward, thy supposed king,—
That Lewis of France is sending over maskers,
To revel it with him and his new bride :

* Thou seest what's past, go fear thy king⁹ withal.

Bona. Tell him; In hope he'll prove a widower
shortly,

I'll wear the willow garland for his sake.

Q. Mar. Tell him, My mourning weeds are laid
aside,

And I am ready to put armour on.'

War. Tell him from me, That he hath done me
wrong ;

And therefore I'll uncrown him, ere't be long.

There's thy reward ;¹ be gone. [*Exit Mess.*]

K. Lew. But, Warwick, thou,

And Oxford, with five thousand men,
Shall cross the seas, and bid false Edward battle :

* And, as occasion serves, this noble queen

* And prince shall follow with a fresh supply.

' Yet, ere thou go, but answer me one doubt ;—

' What pledge have we of thy firm loyalty ?

War. This shall assure my constant loyalty :—

That if our queen and this young prince agree,

I'll join mine eldest daughter, and my joy,

To him forthwith in holy wedlock bands.

Q. Mar. Yes, I agree, and thank you for your
motion :—

⁹ — go fear thy king —] That is, *fright* thy king.

¹ — to put armour on.] It was once no unusual thing for queens themselves to appear in armour at the head of their forces. The suit which Elizabeth wore, when she rode through the lines at Tilbury to encourage the troops, on the approach of the armada, may be still seen in the Tower.

¹ — thy reward ;] Here we are to suppose that, according to ancient custom, Warwick makes a present to the Herald or Messenger, whom the original copies call—a *Post*.

‘ Son Edward, she is fair and virtuous,
 ‘ Therefore delay not, give thy hand to Warwick;
 ‘ And, with thy hand, thy faith irrevocable,
 ‘ That only Warwick’s daughter shall be thine.

* *Prince.* Yes, I accept her, for she well deserves it;
 * And here, to pledge my vow, I give my hand.

[*He gives his hand to WARWICK.*]

‘ *K. Lew.* Why stay we now? These soldiers shall
 be levied,

‘ And thou, lord Bourbon, our high admiral,
 ‘ Shall waft them over with our royal fleet.—
 ‘ I long, till Edward fall by war’s mischance,
 ‘ For mocking marriage with a dame of France.

[*Exeunt all but WARWICK.*]

War. I came from Edward as ambassador,
 But I return his sworn and mortal foe:
 Matter of marriage was the charge he gave me,
 But dreadful war shall answer his demand.
 Had he none else to make a stale,³ but me?
 Then none but I shall turn his jest to sorrow.
 I was the chief that rais’d him to the crown,
 And I’ll be chief to bring him down again:
 Not that I pity Henry’s misery,
 But seek revenge on Edward’s mockery. [*Exit.*]

ACT IV.

SCENE I. London. A Room in the Palace.

Enter GLOSTER, CLARENCE, SOMERSET, MONTAGUE, and Others.

‘ *Glo.* Now tell me, brother Clarence, what think you
 ‘ Of this new marriage with the lady Grey?

³ — to make a stale,—] i. e. *stalking-horse*, *pretence*.

Hath not our brother made a worthy choice !

* *Clar.* Alas, you know, 'tis far from hence to
France ;

How could he stay till Warwick made return ?

* *Som.* My lords, forbear this talk ; here comes
the king.

ourish. Enter King EDWARD, attended ; Lady
GREY, as Queen ; PEMBROKE, STAFFORD, HAS-
TINGS, and Others.

* *Glo.* And his well-chosen bride.

* *Clar.* I mind to tell him plainly what I think.

' *K. Edw.* Now, brother of Clarence, how like
you our choice,

That you stand pensive, as half malcontent ?

' *Clar.* As well as Lewis of France, or the earl of
Warwick ;

Which are so weak of courage, and in judgment,
That they'll take no offence at our abuse.

' *K. Edw.* Suppose, they take offence without a
cause,

They are but Lewis and Warwick ; I am Edward,
Your king and Warwick's, and must have my will.

' *Glo.* And you shall have your will, because our
king :

Yet hasty marriage seldom proveth well.

K. Edw. Yea, brother Richard, are you offended
too ?

' *Glo.* Not I :

No ; God forbid, that I should wish them sever'd
Whom God hath join'd together : ay, and 'twere pity,
To sunder them that yoke so well together.

' *K. Edw.* Setting your scorns, and your mislike,
aside,

Tell me some reason why the lady Grey
Should not become my wife, and England's
queen :—

' And you too, Somerset, and Montague,

' Speak freely what you think.

' *Clar.* Then this is my opinion,—that king Lewis

' Becomes your enemy, for mocking him

' About the marriage of the lady Bona.

' *Glo.* And Warwick, doing what you gave in charge,

' Is now dishonoured by this new marriage.

' *K. Edw.* What, if both Lewis and Warwick be appeas'd,

' By such invention as I can devise?

Mont. Yet to have join'd with France in such alliance,

Would more have strengthen'd this our common-wealth

' 'Gainst foreign storms, than any home-bred marriage.

' *Hast.* Why, knows not Montague, that of itself,

' England is safe, if true within itself?⁴

* *Mont.* Yes; but the safer, when it is back'd with France.

* *Hast.* 'Tis better using France, than trusting France:

* Let us be back'd with God, and with the seas,⁵

* Which he hath given for fence impregnable,

* And with their helps only defend ourselves;

* In them, and in ourselves, our safety lies.

Clar. For this one speech, lord Hastings well deserves

' To have the heir of the lord Hungerford.

⁴ *Why, knows not Montague, that of itself*

England is safe, if true within itself?] Neither the lapse of two centuries, nor any circumstance which has occurred during that eventful period, has in any degree shook the credit of this observation, or impaired the confidence of the publick in the truth of it. "England is and will be still safe, if true within itself."

⁵ — *with the seas,*] This has been the advice of every man who in any age understood and favoured the interest of England.

* *K. Edw.* Ay, what of that? it was my will, and grant;

* And, for this once, my will shall stand for law.

* *Glo.* And yet, methinks, your grace hath not done well,

* To give the heir and daughter of lord Scales

* Unto the brother of your loving bride;

* She better would have fitted me, or Clarence:

* But in your bride you bury brotherhood.

* *Clar.* Or else you would not have bestow'd the heir⁶

* Of the lord Bonville on your new wife's son,

* And leave your brothers to go speed elsewhere.

* *K. Edw.* Alas, poor Clarence! is it for a wife,

* That thou art malcontent? I will provide thee.

* *Clar.* In choosing for yourself, you show'd your judgment;

* Which being shallow, you shall give me leave

* To play the broker in mine own behalf;

* And, to that end, I shortly mind to leave you.

* *K. Edw.* Leave me, or tarry, Edward will be king,

* And not be tied unto his brother's will.

* *Q. Eliz.* My lords, before it pleas'd his majesty

* To raise my state to title of a queen,

* Do me but right, and you must all confess

* That I was not ignoble of descent,⁷

⁶ — you would not have bestow'd the heir —] It must be remembered, that till the Restoration, the heiresses of great estates were in the wardship of the King, who in their minority gave them up to plunder, and afterwards matched them to his favourites. I know not when liberty gained more than by the abolition of the court of wards. JOHNSON.

⁷ — I was not ignoble of descent,] Her father was Sir Richard Widdrill, Knight, afterwards Earl of Rivers; her mother, Jaqueline, Duchess Dowager of Bedford, who was daughter to Peter of Luxembourg, Earl of Saint Paul, and widow of John Duke of Bedford, brother to King Henry V.

* And meaner than myself have had like fortune.

* But as this title honours me and mine,

* So your dislikes, to whom I would be pleasing,

* Do cloud my joys with danger and with sorrow.

‘ *K. Edw.* My love, forbear to fawn upon their frowns :

‘ What danger, or what sorrow can befall thee,

‘ So long as Edward is thy constant friend,

‘ And their true sovereign, whom they must obey ?

‘ Nay, whom they shall obey, and love thee too,

‘ Unless they seek for hatred at my hands :

‘ Which if they do, yet will I keep thee safe,

‘ And they shall feel the vengeance of my wrath.

* *Glo.* I hear, yet say not much, but think the more. [*Aside.*

Enter a Messenger.

‘ *K. Edw.* Now, messenger, what letters, or what news,

From France ?

‘ *Mess.* My sovereign liege, no letters ; and few words,

‘ But such as I, without your special pardon,

Dare not relate.

‘ *K. Edw.* Go to, we pardon thee : therefore, in brief,

‘ Tell me their words as near as thou canst guess them.

What answer makes king Lewis unto our letters ?

Mess. At my depart, these were his very words ;
Go tell false Edward, thy supposed king ;—
That Lewis of France is sending over maskers,
To revel it with him and his new bride.

K. Edw. Is Lewis so brave ? belike, he thinks me Henry.

‘ But what said lady Bona to my marriage ?

Mess. These were her words, utter'd with mild disdain ;

*Tell him, in hope he'll prove a widower shortly,
I'll wear the willow garland for his sake.*

K. Edw. I blame not her, she could say little less ;
She had the wrong. But what said Henry's queen ?
For I have heard that she was there in place.⁸

Mess. *Tell him, quoth she, my mourning weeds
are done,*⁹

And I am ready to put armour on.

K. Edw. Belike, she minds to play the Amazon.
But what said Warwick to these injuries ?

Mess. He, more incens'd against your majesty
Than all the rest, discharg'd me with these words ;
*Tell him from me, that he hath done me wrong,
And therefore I'll uncrown him, ere't be long.*

K. Edw. Ha ! durst the traitor breathe out so
proud words ?

Well, I will arm me, being thus forwarn'd :
They shall have wars, and pay for their presumption.

But say, is Warwick friends with Margaret ?

Mess. Ay, gracious sovereign ; they are so link'd
in friendship,
That young prince Edward marries Warwick's
daughter.

Clar. Belike, the elder ; Clarence will have the
younger.

Now, brother king, farewell, and sit you fast,
For I will hence to Warwick's other daughter ;
That, though I want a kingdom, yet in marriage
I may not prove inferior to yourself.—

⁸ — *she was there in place.*] This expression, signifying, she was there present, occurs frequently in old English writers. *En place*, a Gallicism.

⁹ — *are done,*] i. e. are consumed, thrown off. The word is often used in this sense by the writers of our author's age.

THIRD PART OF

You, that love me and Warwick, follow me.

[*Exit CLARENCE, and SOMERSET follows.*]

* *Glo.* Not I.

* My thoughts aim at a further matter ; I

* Stay not for love of Edward, but the crown.

[*Aside.*]

K. Edw. Clarence and Somerset both gone to
Warwick !

* Yet am I arm'd against the worst can happen ;

* And haste is needful in this desperate case.—

‘ Pembroke, and Stafford, you in our behalf

‘ Go levy men, and make prepare for war.

‘ They are already, or quickly will be landed ;

‘ Myself in person will straight follow you.

[*Exeunt PEMBROKE and STAFFORD.*]

‘ But, ere I go, Hastings,—and Montague,—

‘ Resolve my doubt. You twain, of all the rest,

‘ Are near to Warwick, by blood, and by alliance :

‘ Tell me, if you love Warwick more than me ?

‘ If it be so, then both depart to him ;

‘ I rather wish you foes, than hollow friends ;

‘ But if you mind to hold your true obedience,

‘ Give me assurance with some friendly vow,

‘ That I may never have you in suspect.

Mont. So God help Montague, as he proves true !

Hast. And Hastings, as he favours Edward's cause !

‘ *K. Edw.* Now, brother Richard, will you stand
by us ?

Glo. Ay, in despite of all that shall withstand you.

‘ *K. Edw.* Why so ; then am I sure of victory.

‘ Now therefore let us hence ; and lose no hour,

‘ Till we meet Warwick with his foreign power.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

A Plain in Warwickshire.

Enter WARWICK and OXFORD, with French and other Forces.

War. Trust me, my lord, all hitherto goes well;
The common people by numbers swarm to us.

Enter CLARENCE and SOMERSET.

But, see, where Somerset and Clarence come;—
Speak suddenly, my lords, are we all friends?

Clar. Fear not that, my lord.

War. Then, gentle Clarence, welcome unto Warwick;

And welcome, Somerset :—I hold it cowardice,
To rest mistrustful where a noble heart
Hath pawn'd an open hand in sign of love;
Else might I think, that Clarence, Edward's brother,
Were but a feigned friend to our proceedings:
But welcome, Clarence; my daughter shall be thine.
And now what rests, but, in night's coverture,
Thy brother being carelessly encamp'd,
His soldiers lurking in the towns about,
And but attended by a simple guard,
We may surprize and take him at our pleasure?
Our scouts have found the adventure very easy:
* That as Ulysses, and stout Diomed,
* With slight and manhood stole to Rhesus' tents,
* And brought from thence the Thracian fatal
steeds;
* So we, well cover'd with the night's black mantle,

* — the Thracian fatal steeds;] We are told by some of the writers on the Trojan story, that the capture of these horses was one of the necessary preliminaries to the fate of Troy.

- * At unawares may beat down Edward's guard,
 - * And seize himself; I say not—slaughter him,
 - * For I intend but only to surprize him.—
 - ' You, that will follow me to this attempt,
 - ' Applaud the name of Henry, with your leader.
- [*They all cry, HENRY!*]
- Why, then, let's on our way in silent sort:
 For Warwick and his friends, God and Saint
 George! [*Ereunt.*]

SCENE III.

Edward's Camp, near Warwick.

Enter certain Watchmen, to guard the King's Tent.

- * 1 *Watch.* Come on, my masters, each man
take his stand;
- * The king, by this, is set him down to sleep.
- * 2 *Watch.* What, will he not to bed?
- * 1 *Watch.* Why, no: for he hath made a solemn
vow
- * Never to lie and take his natural rest,
- * Till Warwick, or himself, be quite suppress'd.
- 2 *Watch.* To-morrow then, belike, shall be the
day,
- * If Warwick be so near as men report.
- * 3 *Watch.* But say, I pray, what nobleman is
that,
- * That with the king here resteth in his tent?
- * 1 *Watch.* 'Tis the lord Hastings, the king's
chiefest friend.
- * 3 *Watch.* O, is it so? But why commands the
king,
- * That his chief followers lodge in towns about him,
- * While he himself keepeth in the cold field?

- * 2 *Watch*. 'Tis the more honour, because more dangerous.
- * 3 *Watch*. Ay; but give me worship and quietness,
- * I like it better than a dangerous honour.
- * If Warwick knew in what estate he stands,
- * 'Tis to be doubted, he would waken him.
- * 1 *Watch*. Unless our halberds did shut up his passage.
- * 2 *Watch*. Ay; wherefore else guard we his royal tent,
- * But to defend his person from night-foes?

Enter WARWICK, CLARENCE, OXFORD, SOMERSET, and Forces.

- ' *War*. This is his tent; and see, where stand his guard.
- ' Courage, my masters: honour now, or never!
- ' But follow me, and Edward shall be ours.
- 1 *Watch*. Who goes there?
- 2 *Watch*. Stay, or thou diest.
- [*WARWICK, and the rest, cry all—Warwick! Warwick! and set upon the Guard; who fly, crying—Arm! Arm! WARWICK, and the rest, following them.*]

The Drum beating, and Trumpets sounding, Re-enter WARWICK, and the rest, bringing the King out in a Gown, sitting in a Chair: GLOSTER and HASTINGS fly.

- ' *Som*. What are they that fly there?
- ' *War*. Richard, and Hastings: let them go, here's the duke.
- K. Edw*. The duke! why, Warwick, when we parted last,
- Thou call'dst me king?
- War*. Ay, but the case is alter'd:

' When you disgrac'd me in my embassy,

' Then I degraded you from being king,

And come now to create you duke of York.

Alas! how should you govern any kingdom,

That know not how to use ambassadors;

Nor how to be contented with one wife;

Nor how to use your brothers brotherly;

* Nor how to study for the people's welfare;

Nor how to shrowd yourself from enemies?

* *K. Edw.* Yea, brother of Clarence, art thou here too?

* Nay, then I see, that Edward needs must down.—

' Yet, Warwick, in despite of all mischance,

' Of thee thyself, and all thy complices,

' Edward will always bear himself as king:

* Though fortune's malice overthrow my state,

* My mind exceeds the compass of her wheel.

War. Then, for his mind, be Edward England's king:—
[Takes off his Crown.]

But Henry now shall wear the English crown,

* And be true king indeed; thou but the shadow.—

' My lord of Somerset, at my request,

' See that forthwith duke Edward be convey'd

' Unto my brother, archbishop of York.

' When I have fought with Pembroke and his fellows,

' I'll follow you, and tell what answer

' Lewis, and the lady Bona, send to him:—

Now, for a while, farewell, good duke of York.

* *K. Edw.* What fates impose, that men must needs abide;

* It boots not to resist both wind and tide.

[Exit King EDWARD, led out; SOMERSET with him.]

* *Oxf.* What now remains, my lords, for us to do,

* But march to London with our soldiers?

* Then, for his mind, be Edward England's king:— That is, in his mind; as far as his own mind goes.

War. Ay, that's the first thing that we have to do ;
 ' To free king Henry from imprisonment,
 And see him seated in the regal throne. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

London. *A Room in the Palace.*

Enter Queen ELIZABETH and RIVERS.

' *Riv.* Madam, what makes you in this sudden
 change?

' *Q. Eliz.* Why, brother Rivers, are you yet to
 learn,

' What late misfortune is befall'n king Edward?

Riv. What, loss of some pitch'd battle against
 Warwick?

' *Q. Eliz.* No, but the loss of his own royal person.

' *Riv.* Then is my sovereign slain?

' *Q. Eliz.* Ay, almost slain, for he is taken prisoner;

' Either betray'd by falsehood of his guard,

' Or by his foe surpriz'd at unawares:

' And, as I further have to understand,

' Is new committed to the bishop of York,

' Fell Warwick's brother, and by that our foe.

' *Riv.* These news, I must confess, are full of
 grief:

' Yet, gracious madam, bear it as you may;

' Warwick may lose, that now hath won the day.

* *Q. Eliz.* Till then, fair hope must hinder life's
 decay.

* And I the rather wean me from despair,

* For love of Edward's offspring in my womb:

* This is it that makes me bridle passion,

* And bear with mildness my misfortune's cross;

* Ay, ay, for this I draw in many a tear,

* And stop the rising of blood-sucking sighs,

* Lest with my sighs or tears I blast or drown
King Edward's fruit, true heir to the English crown.

* *Riv.* But, madam, where is Warwick then become?

* *Q. Eliz.* I am informed, that he comes towards London,

* To set the crown once more on Henry's head :

* Guess thou the rest ; king Edward's friends must down.

* But, to prevent the tyrant's violence,

* (For trust not him that hath once broken faith,)

* I'll hence forthwith unto the sanctuary,

* To save at least the heir of Edward's right ;

* There shall I rest secure from force, and fraud.

* Come therefore, let us fly, while we may fly ;

* If Warwick take us, we are sure to die. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.

A Park near Middleham Castle in Yorkshire.

*Enter GLOSTER, HASTINGS, Sir WILLIAM STANLEY,
and Others.*

* *Glo.* Now, my lord Hastings, and sir William Stanley,

* Leave off to wonder, why I drew you hither,

* Into this chiefest thicket of the park.

* Thus stands the case : You know, our king, my brother,

* Is prisoner to the bishop here, at whose hands

* He hath good usage and great liberty ;

* And often, but attended with weak guard,

* Comes hunting this way to disport himself.

* I have advértis'd him by secret means,

* That if about this hour, he make this way,

* Under the colour of his usual game,

- ‘ He shall here find his friends, with horse and men,
 ‘ To set him free from his captivity.

Enter King EDWARD, and a Huntsman.

- ‘ *Hunt.* This way, my lord ; for this way lies the
 game.
 ‘ *K. Edw.* Nay, this way, man ; see, where the
 huntsmen stand.—
 ‘ Now, brother of Gloster, lord Hastings, and therest,
 ‘ Stand you thus close, to steal the bishop’s deer ?
 ‘ *Glo.* Brother, the time and case requireth haste ;
 ‘ Your horse stands ready at the park corner.
 ‘ *K. Edw.* But whither shall we then ?
 ‘ *Hast.* To Lynn, my lord ; and ship from thence
 to Flanders.
 ‘ *Glo.* Well guess’d, believe me ; for that was my
 meaning.
 ‘ *K. Edw.* Stanley, I will requite thy forwardness.
 * *Glo.* But wherefore stay we ? ’tis no time to talk.
 ‘ *K. Edw.* Huntsman, what say’st thou ? wilt thou
 go along ?
 ‘ *Hunt.* Better do so, than tarry and be hang’d.
 * *Glo.* Come then, away ; let’s have no more ado.
 ‘ *K. Edw.* Bishop, farewell : shield thee from
 Warwick’s frown ;
 And pray that I may repossess the crown. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE VI.

A Room in the Tower.

- Enter King HENRY, CLARENCE, WARWICK, SOMERSET, young RICHMOND, OXFORD, MONTAGUE, Lieutenant of the Tower, and Attendants.*
 * *K. Hen.* Master lieutenant, now that God and
 friends

- * Have shaken Edward from the regal seat ;
- * And turn'd my captive state to liberty,
- * My fear to hope, my sorrows unto joys ;
- * At our enlargement what are thy due fees ?
- * *Lieu.* Subjects may challenge nothing of their
sovereigns ;
- * But, if an humble prayer may prevail,
- * I then crave pardon of your majesty.
- * *K. Hen.* For what, lieutenant ? for well using
me ?
- * Nay, be thou sure, I'll well requite thy kindness,
- * For that it made my imprisonment a pleasure :
- * Ay, such a pleasure as incaged birds
- * Conceive, when, after many moody thoughts,
- * At last, by notes of household harmony,
- * They quite forget their loss of liberty.—
- * But, Warwick, after God, thou set'st me free,
- * And chiefly therefore, I thank God, and thee ;
- * He was the author, thou the instrument.
- * Therefore, that I may conquer fortune's spite,
- * By living low, where fortune cannot hurt me ;
- * And that the people of this blessed land
- * May not be punish'd with my thwarting stars ;
- * Warwick, although my head still wear the crown,
- * I here resign my government to thee,
- * For thou art fortunate in all thy deeds.
- * *War.* Your grace hath still been fam'd for vir-
tuous ;
- * And now may seem as wise as virtuous,
- * By spying, and avoiding, fortune's malice,
- * For few men rightly temper with the stars :³
- * Yet in this one thing let me blame your grace,

³ — *Few men rightly temper with the stars :*] I suppose the meaning is, that few men conform their *temper* to their destiny ; which King Henry did, when finding himself unfortunate he gave the management of public affairs to more prosperous hands.

- * For choosing me, when Clarence is in place.⁴
- * *Clar.* No, Warwick, thou art worthy of the way,
- * To whom the heavens, in thy nativity,
- * Adjudg'd an olive branch, and laurel crown,
- * As likely to be blest in peace and war;
- * And therefore I yield thee my free consent.
- * *War.* And I choose Clarence only for protector.
- * *K. Hen.* Warwick, and Clarence, give me
both your hands;
- * Now join your hands, and, with your hands, your
hearts,
- * That no dissention hinder government:
- * I make you both protectors of this land;
- * While I myself will lead a private life,
- * And in devotion spend my latter days,
To sin's rebuke, and my Creator's praise.
- * *War.* What answers Clarence to his sovereign's
will?
- * *Clar.* That he consents, if Warwick yield con-
sent;
- * For on thy fortune I repose myself.
- * *War.* Why then, though loath, yet must I be
content:
- * We'll yoke together, like a double shadow
- * To Henry's body, and supply his place;
- * I mean, in bearing weight of government,
- * While he enjoys the honour, and his ease.
- * And, Clarence, now then it is more than needful,
- * Forthwith that Edward be pronounc'd a traitor,
- * And all his lands and goods be confiscate.
- * *Clar.* What else? and that succession be deter-
min'd.
- * *War.* Ay, therein Clarence shall not want his part.
- * *K. Hen.* But, with the first of all your chief
affairs,

⁴ — in place.] i. e. here present.

- * Let me entreat, (for I command no more,)
- * That Margaret your queen, and my son Edward,
- * Be sent for, to return from France with speed :
- * For, till I see them here, by doubtful fear
- * My joy of liberty is half eclips'd.

Clar. It shall be done, my sovereign, with all speed.

- * *K. Hen.* My lord of Somerset, what youth is that,
- * Of whom you seem to have so tender care ?

* *Som.* My liege, it is young Henry, earl of Richmond.

* *K. Hen.* Come hither, England's hope : If secret powers
[*Lays his Hand on his Head.*]

- * Suggest but truth to my divining thoughts,
- * This pretty lad⁵ will prove our country's bliss.
- * His looks are full of peaceful majesty ;
- * His head by nature fram'd to wear a crown,
- * His hand to wield a scepter ; and himself
- * Likely, in time, to bless a regal throne.
- Make much of him, my lords ; for this is he,
- * Must help you more than you are hurt by me.

Enter a Messenger.

- * *War.* What news, my friend ?
- * *Mess.* That Edward is escaped from your brother,
- * And fled, as he hears since, to Burgundy.
- * *War.* Unsavoury news : But how made he escape ?
- * *Mess.* He was convey'd by Richard, duke of
Gloucester,
- * And the lord Hastings, who attended him⁶
- * In secret ambush on the forest side,
- * And from the bishop's huntsmen rescued him ;

⁵ *This pretty lad—*] He was afterwards Henry VII. a man who put an end to the civil war of the two houses, but no otherwise remarkable for virtue. Shakspeare knew his trade. Henry VII. was grandfather to Queen Elizabeth, and the king from whom James inherited. JOHNSON.

⁶ ——— attended him —] i. e. waited for him.

- * For hunting was his daily exercise.
- * *War.* My brother was too careless of his charge.—
- * But let us hence, my sovereign, to provide
- * A salve for any sore that may betide.
[*Exeunt King HENRY, WAR. CLAR. Lieut. and Attendants.*]
- * *Som.* My lord, I like not of this flight of Edward's :
- * For, doubtless, Burgundy will yield him help ;
- * And we shall have more wars, before't be long.
- * As Henry's late presaging prophecy
- * Did glad my heart, with hope of this young Richmond ;
- * So doth my heart misgive me, in these conflicts
- * What may befall him, to his harm, and ours :
- * Therefore, lord Oxford, to prevent the worst,
- * Forthwith we'll send him hence to Britany,
- * Till storms be past of civil enmity.
- * *Oxf.* Ay ; for, if Edward repossess the crown,
- * 'Tis like, that Richmond with the rest shall down.
- * *Som.* It shall be so ; he shall to Britany.
- * Come, therefore, let's about it speedily. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VII.

Before York.

Enter King EDWARD, GLOSTER, HASTINGS, and Forces.

- ' *K. Edw.* Now, brother Richard, lord Hastings, and the rest ;
- ' Yet thus far fortune maketh us amends,
- ' And says—that once more I shall interchange
- ' My waned state for Henry's regal crown.
- ' Well have we pass'd, and now repass'd the seas,

‘ And brought desired help from Burgundy :
 ‘ What then remains, we being thus arriv’d
 ‘ From Ravenspurgh haven before the gates of York,
 ‘ But that we enter, as into our dukedom ?

‘ *Glo.* The gates made fast !—Brother, I like not this ;

* For many men, that stumble at the threshold,

* Are well foretold—that danger lurks within.

K. Edw. Tush, man ! abodements must not now affright us :

* By fair or foul means we must enter in,

* For hither will our friends repair to us.

* *Hast.* My liege, I’ll knock once more, to summon them.

Enter, on the Walls, the Mayor of York, and his Brethren.

‘ *May.* My lords, we were forewarned of your coming,

‘ And shut the gates for safety of ourselves ;

‘ For now we owe allegiance unto Henry.

‘ *K. Edw.* But, master mayor, if Henry be your king,

‘ Yet Edward, at the least, is duke of York.

‘ *May.* True, my good lord ; I know you for no less.

‘ *K. Edw.* Why, and I challenge nothing but my dukedom ;

* As being well content with that alone.

‘ *Glo.* But, when the fox hath once got in his nose,

‘ He’ll soon find means to make the body follow.

[*Aside.*

‘ *Hast.* Why, master mayor, why stand you in a doubt ?

Open the gates, we are king Henry’s friends.

‘ *May.* Ay, say you so ? the gates shall then be open’d.

[*Exeunt from above.*

‘ *Glo.* A wise stout captain, and persuaded soon!

* *Hast.* The good old man would fain that all
were well,⁷

* So ’twere not ’long of him: but, being enter’d,

* I doubt not, I, but we shall soon persuade

* Both him, and all his brothers, unto reason.

Re-enter the Mayor and Two Aldermen, below.

‘ *K. Edw.* So, master mayor: these gates must
not be shut,

‘ But in the night, or in the time of war.

‘ What! fear not, man, but yield me up the keys;
[*Takes his keys.*]

‘ For Edward will defend the town, and thee,

‘ And all those friends that deign to follow me.

Drum. Enter MONTGOMERY, and Forces, marching.

Glo. Brother, this is sir John Montgomery,
Our trusty friend, unless I be deceiv’d.

‘ *K. Edw.* Welcome, sir John! But why come
you in arms?

Mont. To help king Edward in his time of storm,
As every loyal subject ought to do.

‘ *K. Edw.* Thanks good Montgomery: But we
now forget

‘ Our title to the crown; and only claim

‘ Our dukedom, till God please to send the rest.

‘ *Mont.* Then fare you well, for I will hence again;
I came to serve a king, and not a duke,—

‘ Drummer, strike up, and let us march away.

[*A march begun.*]

‘ *K. Edw.* Nay, stay, sir John, a while; and we’ll
debate,

*The good old man would fain that all were well,] The mayor
is willing we should enter, so he may not be blamed.*

' By what safe means the crown may be recover'd.

' *Mont.* What talk you of debating? in few words,

' If you'll not here proclaim yourself our king,

' I'll leave you to your fortune; and be gone,

To keep them back that come to succour you:

Why should we fight, if you pretend no title?

' *Glo.* Why, brother, wherefore stand you on nice points?

* *K. Edw.* When we grow stronger, then we'll make our claim:

* Till then, 'tis wisdom to conceal our meaning.

* *Hast.* Away with scrupulous wit! now arms must rule.

* *Glo.* And fearless minds climb soonest unto crowns.

* Brother, we will proclaim you out of hand;

* The bruit^s thereof will bring you many friends.

* *K. Edw.* Then be it as you will: for 'tis my right,

* And Henry but usurps the diadem.

Mont. Ay, now my sovereign speaketh like himself;
And now will I be Edward's champion.

Hast. Sound, trumpet; Edward shall be here proclaim'd:—

* Come, fellow-soldier, make thou proclamation.

[*Gives him a Paper. Flourish.*]

Sold. [*Reads.*] *Edward the fourth, by the grace of God, king of England and France, and lord of Ireland, &c.*

Mont. And whosoe'er gainsays king Edward's right,
By this I challenge him to single fight.

[*Throws down his Gauntlet.*]

All. Long live Edward the fourth!

' *K. Edw.* Thanks, brave Montgomery;—and thanks unto you all.

' If fortune serve me, I'll requite this kindness.

^s *The bruit* —] i. e. noise, report.

- ' Now, for this night, let's harbour here in York :
 ' And, when the morning sun shall raise his car
 ' Above the border of this horizon,
 ' We'll forward towards Warwick, and his mates ;
 ' For, well I wot, that Henry is no soldier.—
 * Ah, froward Clarence !—how evil it beseems thee,
 * To flatter Henry, and forsake thy brother !
 * Yet, as we may, we'll meet both thee and War-
 wick.—
 * Come on, brave soldiers ; doubt not of the day ;
 * And, that once gotten, doubt not of large pay.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE VIII.

London. *A Room in the Palace.*

Enter King HENRY, WARWICK, CLARENCE, MONTAGUE, EXETER, and OXFORD.

War. What counsel, lords ? Edward from Belgia,
 With hasty Germans, and blunt Hollanders,
 Hath pass'd in safety through the narrow seas,
 And with his troops doth march amain to London ;
 ' And many giddy people flock to him.

* *Oxf.* Let's levy men, and beat him back again.

Clar. A little fire is quickly trodden out ;
 Which, being suffer'd, rivers cannot quench.

War. In Warwickshire I have true-hearted friends,
 Not mutinous in peace, yet bold in war ;
 Those will I muster up :—and thou, son Clarence,
 ' Shalt stir, in Suffolk, Norfolk, and in Kent,
 ' The knights and gentlemen to come with thee :—
 ' Thou, brother Montague, in Buckingham,
 ' Northampton, and in Leicestershire, shalt find
 ' Men well inclin'd to hear what thou command'st :—
 And thou, brave Oxford, wondrous well belov'd,
 In Oxfordshire shalt muster up thy friends.—

My sovereign, with the loving citizens,—

* Like to his island, girt in with the ocean,

* Or modest Dian, circled with her nymphs,—

Shall rest in London, till we come to him.

Fair lords, take leave, and stand not to reply.—

Farewell, my sovereign.

K. Hen. Farewell, my Hector, and my Troy's
true hope.

* *Clar.* In sign of truth, I kiss your highness hand.

* *K. Hen.* Well-minded Clarence, be thou fortunate !

* *Mont.* Comfort, my lord ;—and so I take my
leave.

* *Oxf.* And thus [*Kissing HENRY's hand.*] I seal
my truth, and bid adieu.

* *K. Hen.* Sweet Oxford, and my loving Montague,

* And all at once, once more a happy farewell.

War. Farewell, sweet lords ; let's meet at Coventry.

[*Exeunt WAR. CLAR. OXF. and MONT.*]

* *K. Hen.* Here at the palace will I rest a while.

* Cousin of Exeter, what thinks your lordship ?

* Methinks, the power, that Edward hath in field,

* Should not be able to encounter mine.

* *Exe.* The doubt is, that he will seduce the rest.

* *K. Hen.* That's not my fear, my meed⁹ hath
got me fame.

* I have not stopp'd mine ears to their demands,

* Nor posted off their suits with slow delays ;

* My pity hath been balm to heal their wounds,

* My mildness hath allay'd their swelling griefs,

* My mercy dry'd their water-flowing tears :

* I have not been desirous of their wealth,

* Nor much oppress'd them with great subsidies,

⁹ — my meed —] *Meed* signifies here merit.

- * Nor forward of revenge, though they much err'd ;
- * Then why should they love Edward more than me ?
- * No, Exeter, these graces challenge grace :
- * And, when the lion fawns upon the lamb,
- * The lamb will never cease to follow him.

[*Shout within. A Lancaster ! A Lancaster !*

Exe. Hark, hark, my lord ! what shouts are these ?

Enter King EDWARD, GLOSTER, and Soldiers.

‘ *Edw.* Seize on the shame-fac’d Henry, bear him hence,

- ‘ And once again proclaim us king of England.—
- * You are the fount, that makes small brooks to flow,
- * Now stops thy spring ; my sea shall suck them dry,
- * And swell so much the higher by their ebb.—
- ‘ Hence with him to the Tower ; let him not speak.

[*Exeunt some with King HENRY.*

- ‘ And, lords, towards Coventry bend we our course,
- ‘ Where peremptory Warwick now remains :
- ‘ The sun shines hot, and, if we use delay,
- ‘ Cold-biting winter mars our hop’d-for hay.’
- * *Glo.* Away betimes, before his forces join,
- * And take the great-grown traitor unawares ;
- * Brave warriors, march amain towards Coventry.

[*Exeunt.*

‘ *The sun shines hot, &c.]* The allusion is to a well-known proverb—“ Make hay while the sun shines.”

ACT V.

SCENE I. Coventry.

Enter, upon the Walls, WARWICK, the Mayor of Coventry, Two Messengers, and Others.

War. Where is the post, that came from valiant Oxford?

How far hence is thy lord, mine honest fellow?

‘ 1 *Mess.* By this at Dunsmore, marching hitherward.

War. How far off is our brother Montague?—

Where is the post that came from Montague?

‘ 2 *Mess.* By this at Daintry, with a puissant troop.

Enter Sir JOHN SOMERVILLE.

‘ *War.* Say, Somerville, what says my loving son?

‘ And, by the guess, how nigh is Clarence now?

‘ *Som.* At Southam I did leave him with his forces,
‘ And do expect him here some two hours hence.

[*Drum heard.*

‘ *War.* Then Clarence is at hand, I hear his drum.

* *Som.* It is not his, my lord; here Southam lies;

* The drum your honour hears, marcheth from Warwick.

* *War.* Who should that be? belike, unlook’d-for friends.

* *Som.* They are at hand, and you shall quickly know.

Drums. *Enter King EDWARD, GLOSTER, and Forces, marching.*

K. Edw. Go, trumpet, to the walls, and sound a parle.

' *Glo.* See, how the surly Warwick mans the wall,

War. O, unbid spite! is sportful Edward come?

Where slept our scouts, or how are they seduc'd,
That we could hear no news of his repair?

* *K. Edw.* Now, Warwick, wilt thou ope the
city gates,

' Speak gentle words, and humbly bend thy knee?—

' Call Edward—king, and at his hands beg mercy,

' And he shall pardon thee these outrages.

' *War.* Nay, rather, wilt thou draw thy forces
hence,

Confess who set thee up and pluck'd thee down?—

Call Warwick—patron, and be penitent,

And thou shalt still remain the duke of York.

Glo. I thought, at least, he would have said—the
king;

Or did he make the jest against his will?

* *War.* Is not a dukedom, sir, a goodly gift?

* *Glo.* Ay, by my faith, for a poor earl to give;

* I'll do thee service² for so good a gift.

' *War.* 'Twas I, that gave the kingdom to thy
brother.

K. Edw. Why, then 'tis mine, if but by War-
wick's gift.

' *War.* Thou art no Atlas for so great a weight:

And, weakling, Warwick takes his gift again;

And Henry is my king, Warwick his subject.

* *K. Edw.* But Warwick's king is Edward's pri-
soner:

' And, gallant Warwick, do but answer this,—

What is the body, when the head is off?

' *Glo.* Alas, that Warwick had no more forecast,
But, whiles he thought to steal the single ten,

² *I'll do thee service—*] i. e. enroll myself among thy depen-
dants. Cowell informs us, that *servitium* is "that service which
the tenant, by reason of his fee, oweth unto his lord."

‘ The king was slily finger’d from the deck !³

You left poor Henry at the bishop’s palace,
And, ten to one, you’ll meet him in the Tower.

K. Edw. ’Tis even so ; yet you are Warwick still.

* *Glo.* Come, Warwick, take the time, kneel
down, kneel down :

* Nay, when ? strike now, or else the iron cools.

* *War.* I had rather chop this hand off at a blow,

* And with the other fling it at thy face,

* Than bear so low a sail, to strike to thee.

* *K. Edw.* Sail how thou canst, have wind and
tide thy friend ;

* This hand, fast wound about thy coal-black hair,

* Shall, whiles the head is warm, and new cut off,

* Write in the dust this sentence with thy blood,—

‘ *Wind-changing Warwick now can change no more.*

Enter OXFORD, with Drum and Colours.

* *War.* O cheerful colours ! see, where Oxford comes !

Oxf. Oxford, Oxford, for Lancaster !

[*OXFORD and his Forces enter the City.*

‘ *Glo.* The gates are open, let us enter too.

‘ *K. Edw.* So other foes may set upon our backs.

* Stand we in good array ; for they, no doubt,

* Will issue out again, and bid us battle :

‘ If not, the city, being but of small defence,

‘ We’ll quickly rease the traitors in the same.

War. O, welcome, Oxford ! for we want thy help.

Enter MONTAGUE, with Drum and Colours.

Mont. Montague, Montague, for Lancaster !

[*He and his Forces enter the City.*

Glo. Thou and thy brother both shall buy this
treason

³ *The king was slily finger’d from the deck !]* A pack of cards was anciently termed a *deck* of cards, or a *pair* of cards, and is still in use in some parts.

‘ Even with the dearest blood your bodies bear.

* *K. Edw.* The harder match’d, the greater victory :

* My mind presageth happy gain, and conquest.

Enter SOMERSET, with Drum and Colours.

Som. Somerset, Somerset, for Lancaster !

[*He and his Forces enter the City.*

Glo. Two of thy name, both dukes of Somerset,
Have sold their lives unto the house of York ;⁴
And thou shalt be the third, if this sword hold.

Enter CLARENCE, with Drum and Colours.

War. And lo, where George of Clarence sweeps
along,

Of force enough to bid his brother battle ;

* With whom an upright zeal to right prevails,

* More than the nature of a brother’s love :—

* Come, Clarence, come ; thou wilt, if Warwick
calls.

Clar. Father of Warwick, know you what this
means ?

[*Taking the red Rose out of his Cap.*

‘ Look here, I throw my infamy at thee :

I will not ruinate my father’s house,

Who gave his blood to lime the stones⁵ together,

‘ And set up Lancaster. Why, trow’st thou, War-
wick,

⁴ Two of thy name, both dukes of Somerset,

Have sold their lives unto the house of York ;] The first of these noblemen was Edmund, slain at the battle of Saint Alban’s, 1455. The second was Henry his son, beheaded after the battle of Hexham, 1463. The present duke Edmund, brother to Henry, was taken prisoner at Tewksbury, 1471, and there beheaded, his brother John losing his life in the same fight.

⁵ ——— to lime the stones —] That is, to cement the stones. Lime makes mortar.

' That Clarence is so harsh, so blunt,⁶ unnatural,
 ' To bend the fatal instruments of war
 ' Against his brother and his lawful king ?
 * Perhaps, thou wilt object my holy oath :
 * To keep that oath, were more impiety
 * Than Jephtha's, when he sacrific'd his daughter.
 * I am so sorry for my trespass made,
 * That, to deserve well at my brother's hands,
 * I here proclaim myself thy mortal foe ;
 * With resolution, wheresoe'er I meet thee,
 * (As I will meet thee, if thou stir abroad,)
 * To plague thee for thy foul misleading me.
 And so, proud-hearted Warwick, I defy thee,
 And to my brother turn my blushing cheeks.—
 ' Pardon me, Edward, I will make amends ;
 ' And, Richard, do not frown upon my faults,
 ' For I will henceforth be no more unconstant.

' *K. Edw.* Now welcome more, and ten times
 more belov'd,
 Than if thou never hadst deserv'd our hate.

' *Glo.* Welcome, good Clarence ; this is brother-
 like.

War. O passing traitor,⁷ perjur'd, and unjust !

K. Edw. What, Warwick, wilt thou leave the
 town, and fight ?

Or shall we beat the stones about thine ears ?

' *War.* Alas, I am not coop'd here for defence :
 I will away towards Barnet presently,
 And bid thee battle, Edward, if thou dar'st.

K. Edw. Yes, Warwick, Edward dares, and leads
 the way :—
 Lords, to the field ; Saint George, and victory.

[*March. Exeunt,*

⁶ — so blunt,] Stupid, insensible of paternal fondness.

⁷ — passing traitor,] Eminent, egregious; traitorous beyond
 the common track of treason.

SCENE II.

A Field of Battle near Barnet.

Alarums, and Excursions. Enter King EDWARD, bringing in WARWICK wounded.

- * *K. Edw.* So, lie thou there : die thou, and die our fear ;
- * For Warwick was a bug, that fear'd us all.*—
- * Now, Montague, sit fast ; I seek for thee,
- * That Warwick's bones may keep thine company.

[Exit.]

War. Ah, who is nigh ! come to me, friend, or foe, And tell me, who is victor, York, or Warwick ?

Why ask I that ? my mangled body shows,

- * My blood, my want of strength, my sick heart shows,

That I must yield my body to the earth,

And, by my fall, the conquest to my foe.

Thus yields the cedar to the axe's edge,

Whose arms gave shelter to the princely eagle,

Under whose shade the ramping lion slept ;

Whose top-branch overpeer'd Jove's spreading tree,

- * And kept low shrubs from winter's powerful wind.

- * These eyes, that now are dimm'd with death's black veil,

- * Have been as piercing as the mid-day sun,

- * To search the secret treasons of the world :

The wrinkles in my brows, now fill'd with blood,

Were liken'd oft to kingly sepulchres ;

For who liv'd king, but I could dig his grave ?

And who durst smile, when Warwick bent his brow ?

Lo, now my glory smear'd in dust and blood !

* — a bug, that fear'd us all.] Bug is a bugbear, a terrific being.

My parks,⁹ my walks, my manors that I had,
 Even now forsake me ; and, of all my lands,
 Is nothing left me, but my body's length !
 Why, what is pomp, rule, reign, but earth and dust?
 And, live we how we can, yet die we must.

Enter OXFORD and SOMERSET.

- * *Som.* Ah, Warwick, Warwick! wert thou as
 we are,
- * We might recover all our loss again !
- ‘ The queen from France hath brought a puissant
 power ;
- ‘ Even now we heard the news: Ah, could'st thou fly !
 ‘ *War.* Why then I would not fly.—Ah, Montague,
- * If thou be there, sweet brother, take my hand,
- * And with thy lips keep in my soul a while !
- * Thou lov'st me not ; for, brother, if thou didst,
- * Thy tears would wash this cold congealed blood,
- * That glews my lips, and will not let me speak.
- * Come quickly, Montague, or I am dead.
- ‘ *Som.* Ah, Warwick, Montague hath breath'd
 his last ;
- ‘ And to the latest gasp, cried out for Warwick,
- ‘ And said—Commend me to my valiant brother.
- ‘ And more he would have said ; and more he spoke,
- ‘ Which sounded like a cannon in a vault,¹
- ‘ That might not be distinguish'd ; but, at last,
- ‘ I well might hear deliver'd with a groan,—

⁹ *My parks, &c.*] This mention of his *parks* and *manors* diminishes the pathetic effect of the foregoing lines.

¹ *Which sounded like a cannon in a vault,*] Mr. Steevens thinks *clamour*, which is in the old play, the proper word, and adds, “ The indistinct gabble of undertakers, while they adjust a coffin in a family vault, will abundantly illustrate the preceding simile. Such a peculiar hubbub of inarticulate sounds might have attracted our author's notice : it has too often forced itself on mine.”

‘ O, farewell, Warwick !

War.

Sweet rest to his soul !—

Fly, lords, and save yourselves ; for Warwick bids
You all farewell, to meet again in heaven. [*Dies.*

Oxf. Away, away, to meet the queen’s great
power !

[*Exeunt, bearing off WARWICK’S Body.*

SCENE III.

Another Part of the Field.

*Flourish. Enter King EDWARD, in triumph ; with
CLARENCE, GLOSTER, and the rest.*

‘ *K. Edw.* Thus far our fortune keeps an upward
course,

‘ And we are grac’d with wreaths of victory.

‘ But, in the midst of this bright-shining day,

‘ I spy a black, suspicious, threat’ning cloud,

‘ That will encounter with our glorious sun,

‘ Ere he attain his easeful western bed :

‘ I mean, my lords,—those powers, that the queen

‘ Hath rais’d in Gallia, have arriv’d our coast,

‘ And, as we hear, march on to fight with us.

‘ * *Clar.* A little gale will soon disperse that cloud,

‘ And blow it to the source from whence it came :

‘ Thy very beams will dry those vapours up ;

‘ For every cloud engenders not a storm.

‘ * *Glo.* The queen is valu’d thirty thousand strong,

‘ And Somerset, with Oxford, fled to her ;

‘ If she have time to breathe, be well assur’d,

Her faction will be full as strong as ours.

K. Edw. We are advértis’d by our loving friends,
That they do hold their course toward Tewksbury ;

‘ We having now the best at Barnet field,

‘ Will thither straight, For willingness rids way :
 ‘ And, as we march, our strength will be augmented
 In every county as we go along.—
 Strike up the drum ; cry—Courage ! and away.
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.

Plains near Tewksbury.

*March. Enter Queen MARGARET, Prince EDWARD,
 SOMERSET, OXFORD, and Soldiers.*

- * *Q. Mar.* Great lords, wise men ne’er sit and
 wail their loss,
- * But cheerly seek how to redress their harms.
- ‘ What though the mast be now blown over-board,
- ‘ The cable broke, the holding anchor lost,
- ‘ And half our sailors swallow’d in the flood ?
- ‘ Yet lives our pilot still : Is’t meet, that he
 ‘ Should leave the helm, and like a fearful lad,
- * With tearful eyes add water to the sea,
- * And give more strength to that which hath too
 much ;
- * Whiles, in his moan, the ship splits on the rock,
- * Which industry and courage might have sav’d ?
- * Ah, what a shame ! ah, what a fault were this !
- ‘ Say, Warwick was our anchor ; What of that ?
- ‘ And Montague our top-mast ; What of him ?
- ‘ Our slaughter’d friends the tackles ; What of these ?
- ‘ Why, is not Oxford here another anchor ?
- ‘ And Somerset another goodly mast ?
- ‘ The friends of France our shrouds and tacklings ?
- ‘ And, though unskilful, why not Ned and I
- ‘ For once allow’d the skilful pilot’s charge ?
- ‘ We will not from the helm, to sit and weep ;
- * But keep our course, though the rough wind say—

- * From shelves and rocks that threaten us with wreck.
- * As good to chide the waves, as speak them fair.
- * And what is Edward, but a ruthless sea ?
- * What Clarence, but a quicksand of deceit ?
- * And Richard, but a ragged fatal rock ?
- * All these the enemies to our poor bark.
- * Say, you can swim ; alas, 'tis but a while :
- * Tread on the sand ; why, there you quickly sink :
- * Bestride the rock ; the tide will wash you off,
- * Or else you famish, that's a threefold death.
- * This speak I, lords, to let you understand,
- * In case some one of you would fly from us,
- * That there's no hop'd-for mercy with the brothers,
- * More than with ruthless waves, with sands, and rocks.
- * Why, courage, then ! what cannot be avoided,
- * Twere childish weakness to lament, or fear.
- * *Prince*. Methinks, a woman of this valiant spirit
- * Should, if a coward heard her speak these words,
- * Infuse his breast with magnanimity,
- * And make him, naked, foil a man at arms.
- ' I speak not this, as doubting any here :
- ' For, did I but suspect a fearful man,
- ' He should have leave to go away betimes ;
- ' Lest, in our need, he might infect another,
- ' And make him of like spirit to himself.
- ' If any such be here, as God forbid !
- ' Let him depart, before we need his help.
- * *Oxf.* Women and children of so high a courage !
- And warriors faint ! why, 'twere perpetual shame.—
- ' O, brave young prince ! thy famous grandfather
- Doth live again in thee ; Long may'st thou live,
- To bear his image, and renew his glories !
- * *Som.* And he, that will not fight for such a hope,
- ' Go home to bed, and, like the owl by day,
- ' If he arise, be mock'd and wonder'd at.

THIRD PART OF

* *Q. Mar.* Thanks, gentle Somerset;—sweet Oxford, thanks.

* *Prince.* And take his thanks, that yet hath nothing else.

Enter a Messenger.

‘ *Mess.* Prepare you, lords, for Edward is at hand,

‘ Ready to fight; therefore be resolute,

‘ *Oxf.* I thought no less: it is his policy,

‘ To haste thus fast, to find us unprovided.

Som. But he’s deceiv’d, we are in readiness.

Q. Mar. This cheers my heart, to see your forwardness.

Oxf. Here pitch our battle; hence we will not budge.

March. Enter, at a distance, King EDWARD, CLARENCE, GLOSTER, and Forces.

‘ *K. Edw.* Brave followers, yonder stands the thorny wood,

‘ Which, by the heavens’ assistance, and your strength,

‘ Must by the roots be hewn up yet ere night.

* I need not add more fuel to your fire,

* For, well I wot, ye blaze to burn them out:

* Give signal to the fight, and to it, lords.

Q. Mar. Lords, knights, and gentlemen, what I should say,

‘ My tears gainsay;² for every word I speak,

‘ Ye see, I drink the water of mine eyes.

‘ Therefore, no more but this:—Henry, your sovereign,

‘ Is prisoner to the foe; his state usurp’d,

‘ His realm a slaughterhouse, his subjects slain,

‘ His statutes cancell’d, and his treasure spent;

² *My tears gainsay;*] To *gainsay* is to unsay, to deny, to contradict.

‘ And yonder is the wolf, that makes this spoil.
 ‘ You fight in justice ; then, in God’s name, lords,
 ‘ Be valiant, and give signal to the fight.
 [*Exeunt both Armies.*]

SCENE V.

Another Part of the same.

Alarums : Excursions : and afterwards a Retreat.
Then Enter King EDWARD, CLARENCE, GLOSTER,
and Forces : with Queen MARGARET, OXFORD, and
SOMERSET, Prisoners.

‘ *K. Edw.* Now, here a period of tumultuous broils.
 Away with Oxford to Hammes’ castle³ straight :
 For Somerset, off with his guilty head.

‘ Go, bear them hence ; I will not hear them speak.

Oxf. For my part, I’ll not trouble thee with words.

‘ *Som.* Nor I, but stoop with patience to my fortune.

[*Exeunt OXFORD and SOMERSET, guarded.*]

* *Q. Mar.* So part we sadly in this troublous world,
 * To meet with joy in sweet Jerusalem.

* *K. Edw.* Is proclamation made,—that, who finds Edward,

* Shall have a high reward, and he his life ?

* *Glo.* It is : and, lo, where youthful Edward comes.

Enter Soldiers, with Prince EDWARD.

* *K. Edw.* Bring forth the gallant, let us hear him speak :

* What ! can so young a thorn begin to prick ?

‘ Edward, what satisfaction canst thou make,

‘ ——— to Hammes’ castle —] A castle in Picardy, where Oxford was confined for many years.

‘ For bearing arms, for stirring up my subjects,

* And all the trouble thou hast turn’d me to ?

Prince. Speak like a subject, proud ambitious York !

Suppose that I am now my father’s mouth ;
Resign thy chair, and, where I stand, kneel thou,
Whilst I propose the self-same words to thee,
Which, traitor, thou would’st have me answer to.

Q. Mar. Ah, that thy father had been so resolv’d !

‘ *Glo.* That you might still have worn the petticoat,
And ne’er have stol’n the breech from Lancaster.

Prince. Let Æsop’s fable in a winter’s night ;
His currish riddles sort not with this place.

Glo. By heaven, brat, I’ll plague you for that word.

Q. Mar. Ay, thou wast born to be a plague to men.

Glo. For God’s sake, take away this captive scold.

Prince. Nay, take away this scolding crook-back rather.

‘ *K. Edw.* Peace, wilful boy, or I will charm your tongue.

Clar. Untutor’d lad, thou art too malapert.

Prince. I know my duty, you are all undutiful :
Lascivious Edward,—and thou perjurd George,—

And thou misshapen Dick,—I tell ye all,

I am your better, traitors as ye are ;—

* And thou usurp’st my father’s right and mine.

K. Edw. Take that, the likeness of this railer
here.⁵ [*Stabs him.*

* *Glo.* Sprawl’st thou ? take that, to end thy
agony. [*Glo. stabs him.*

* *Clar.* And there’s for twitting me with perjury.
[*Clar. stabs him.*

⁴ Let Æsop, &c.] The Prince calls Richard, for his crookedness, Æsop ; and the poet, following nature, makes Richard highly incensed at the reproach.

⁵ — the likeness of this railer here, &c.] That thou resemblest thy railing mother.

Q. Mar. O, kill me too!

Glo. Marry, and shall. [*Offers to kill her.*]

K. Edw. Hold, Richard, hold, for we have done too much.

Glo. Why should she live, to fill the world with words?⁶

K. Edw. What! doth she swoon? use means for her recovery.

Glo. Clarence, excuse me to the king my brother;

I'll hence to London on a serious matter:

Ere ye come there, be sure to hear some news.

Clar. What, what?

Glo. The Tower! the Tower! [*Exit.*]

Q. Mar. O, Ned, sweet Ned! speak to thy mother, boy!

Canst thou not speak!—O traitors! murderers!—

They, that stabb'd Cæsar, shed no blood at all,

Did not offend, nor were not worthy blame,

* If this foul deed were by, to equal it.

He was a man: this, in respect, a child;

And men ne'er spend their fury on a child.

What's worse than murderer, that I may name it?

* No, no; my heart will burst, an if I speak:—

* And I will speak, that so my heart may burst.—

Butchers and villains, bloody cannibals!

* How sweet a plant have you untimely cropp'd!

You have no children, butchers! if you had,

The thought of them would have stirr'd up remorse:

But, if you ever chance to have a child,

Look in his youth to have him so cut off,

As, deathsmen! you have rid this sweet young prince!

K. Edw. Away with her; go, bear her hence perforce.

Q. Mar. Nay, never bear me hence, despatch me here;

⁶ — with words?] i. e. dispute, contention.

Here sheath thy sword, I'll pardon thee my death:
What! wilt thou not?—then, Clarence, do it thou.

Clar. By heaven, I will not do thee so much ease.

Q. Mar. Good Clarence, do; sweet Clarence, do thou do it.

Clar. Didst thou not hear me swear, I would not do it.

Q. Mar. Ay, but thou usest to forswear thyself;
'Twas sin before,⁷ but now 'tis charity.

'What! wilt thou not? where is that devil's butcher,
Hard-favour'd Richard? Richard, where art thou?
Thou art not here: Murder is thy alms-deed;
Petitioners for blood thou ne'er put'st back.

'*K. Edw.* Away, I say; I charge ye, bear her hence.

Q. Mar. So come to you, and yours, as to this prince! [*Exit, led out forcibly.*]

K. Edw. Where's Richard gone?

'*Clar.* To London, all in post; and, as I guess,
To make a bloody supper in the Tower.

K. Edw. He's sudden, if a thing comes in his head.
'Now march we hence: discharge the common sort
'With pay and thanks, and let's away to London,
'And sec our gentle queen how well she fares;
'By this, I hope, she hath a son for me. [*Exeunt* -

SCENE VI.

London. *A Room in the Tower.*

King HENRY is discovered sitting with a Book in his Hand, the Lieutenant attending. Enter GLOSTER.

Glo. Good day, my lord! What, at your book so hard?

⁷ 'Twas sin before,] She alludes to the desertion of Clarence.





Henry, the Lieutenant of the Tower.
Enter Ciloster. 'Tis a day, my Lord, that
at your look so hard?

Engraved by C. F. Robinson London Dec. 1853.

K. Hen. Ay, my good lord: My lord, I should say rather:

The sin to flatter, good was little better:
Good Gloster, and good devil, were alike,
And both preposterous; therefore, not good lord.

Glo. Sirrah, leave us to ourselves: we must confer. [Exit Lieutenant.]

K. Hen. So flies the reckless shepherd from the wolf:

So first the harmless sheep doth yield his fleece,
And next his throat unto the butcher's knife.—
What scene of death hath Roscius now to act?

Glo. Suspicion always haunts the guilty mind;
The thief doth fear each bush an officer.

K. Hen. The bird, that hath been limed in a bush,
With trembling wings misdoubteth every bush:
Alas I, the hapless male* to one sweet bird,
Have now the fatal object in my eye,
Where my poor young was lim'd, was caught, and
kill'd.

Glo. Why, what a pcevisish fool was that of Crete,
That taught his son the office of a fowl?
And yet, for all his wings, the fool was drown'd.

K. Hen. I, Dædalus; my poor boy, Icarus;
My father, Minos, that denied our course;
The sun, that sear'd the wings of my sweet boy,
My brother Edward; and thyself, the sea,
Whose envious gulf did swallow up his life.
Oh, kill me with thy weapon, not with words!
My breast can better brook thy dagger's point,
Than can my ears that tragick history.—

But wherefore dost thou come? is't for my life?

Glo. Think'st thou I am an executioner?

K. Hen. A persecutor, I am sure, thou art;

* — hapless male—] The word *male* is here used in a very uncommon sense, not for the male of the female, but for the male parent: the sweet bird is evidently his son Prince Edward.

‘ If murdering innocents be executing,

‘ Why, then thou art an executioner.

Glo. Thy son I kill’d for his presumption.

K. Hen. Hadst thou been kill’d when first thou
didst presume,

Thou hadst not liv’d to kill a son of mine.

‘ And thus I prophecy,—that many a thousand,

‘ Which now mistrust no parcel of my fear ;⁹

‘ And many an old man’s sigh, and many a widow’s,

‘ And many an orphan’s water-standing eye,—

‘ Men for their sons, wives for their husbands’ fate,

‘ And orphans for their parents’ timeless death,—

‘ Shall rue the hour that ever thou wast born.

The owl shriek’d at thy birth, an evil sign ;

‘ The night-crow cried, aboding luckless time ;

Dogs howl’d, and hideous tempests shook down trees ;

The raven rook’d her’ on the chimney’s top,

And chattering pies in dismal discords sung.

Thy mother felt more than a mother’s pain,

And yet brought forth less than a mother’s hope ;

‘ To wit,—an indigest deformed lump,

Not like the fruit of such a goodly tree.

Teeth hadst thou in thy head, when thou wast born,

To signify, thou cam’st to bite the world :

And, if the rest be true which I have heard,

‘ Thou cam’st—

Glo. I’ll hear no more ;—Die, prophet, in thy
speech : [Stabs him.]

For this, amongst the rest, was I ordain’d.

K. Hen. Ay, and for much more slaughter after
this.

O God! forgive my sins, and pardon thee! [Dies.]

⁹ Which now mistrust no parcel of my fear ;] Who suspect no part of what my fears presage.

‘ The raven rook’d her —] To rook, or rather to ruck, is a north-country word, signifying to squat down, or lodge on any thing.

Glo. What, will the aspiring blood of Lancaster
Sink in the ground? I thought it would have mounted.
See, how my sword weeps for the poor king's death!
'O, may such purple tears be always shed
'From those that wish the downfall of our house!—
'If any spark of life be yet remaining,
Down, down to hell; and say—I sent thee thither,
[*Stabs him again.*]

I, that have neither pity, love, nor fear.—
Indeed, 'tis true, that Henry told me of;
For I have often heard my mother say,
I came into the world with my legs forward:
Had I not reason, think ye, to make haste,
'And seek their ruin that usurp'd our right?
The midwife wonder'd: and the women cried,
O, Jesus bless us, he is born with teeth!
'And so I was; which plainly signified—
That I should snarl, and bite, and play the dog.
'Then since the heavens have shap'd my body so,
Let hell make crook'd my mind to answer it.
I have no brother, I am like no brother:
'And this word—love, which greybeards call divine,
Be resident in men like one another,
And not in me; I am myself alone.
Clarence, beware; thou keep'st me from the light;
But I will sort a pitchy day for thee:²
For I will buz abroad such prophecies,
'That Edward shall be fearful of his life;
And then, to purge his fear, I'll be thy death.
'King Henry, and the prince his son, are gone:
'Clarence, thy turn is next, and then the rest;
Counting myself but bad, till I be best.—
'I'll throw thy body in another room,
And triumph, Henry, in thy day of doom. [*Exit.*]

² *But I will sort a pitchy day for thee:] But I will choose out
an hour whose gloom shall be as fatal to you. To sort is to select.*

SCENE VII.

The same. A Room in the Palace.

*King EDWARD is discovered sitting on his Throne;
Queen ELIZABETH with the infant Prince, CLARENCE,
GLOSTER, HASTINGS, and Others, near him.*

K. Edw. Once more we sit in England's royal throne,

Re-purchas'd with the blood of enemies.

What valiant foe-men, like to autumn's corn,

Have we mow'd down, in tops of all their pride?

Three dukes of Somerset, threefold renown'd

For hardy and undoubted champions :

Two Cliffords, as the father and the son,

And two Northumberlands : two braver men

Ne'er spurrd their coursers at the trumpet's sound :

' With them, the two brave bears, Warwick and

Montague,

That in their chains fetter'd the kingly lion,

And made the forest tremble when they roar'd.

Thus have we swept suspicion from our seat,

And made our footstool of security.—

Come hither, Bess, and let me kiss my boy :—

Young Ned, for thee, thine uncles, and myself,

Have in our armours watch'd the winter's night ;

' Went all a foot in summer's scalding heat,

That thou might'st repossess the crown in peace ;

And of our labours thou shalt reap the gain.

Glo. I'll blast his harvest, if your head were laid ;

For yet I am not look'd on in the world.

This shoulder was ordain'd so thick, to heave ;

And heave it shall some weight, or break my back :—

Work thou the way,—and thou shalt execute.'

[*Aside.*

K. Edw. Clarence, and Gloster, love my lovely queen ;

And kiss your princely nephew, brothers both.

Clar. The duty, that I owe unto your majesty, seal upon the lips of this sweet babe.

K. Edw. Thanks, noble Clarence ; worthy brother, thanks.⁴

Glo. And, that I love the tree from whence thou sprang'st,

Witness the loving kiss I give the fruit :—

To say the truth, so Judas kiss'd his master ;
And cried—all hail ! when as he meant—
all harm. } *Aside.*

K. Edw. Now am I seated as my soul delights, leaving my country's peace, and brothers' loves.

Clar. What will your grace have done with Margaret ?

Leignier, her father, to the king of France

lath pawn'd the Sicils and Jerusalem,

and hither have they sent it for her ransom.

K. Edw. Away with her, and waft her hence to France.

And now what rests, but that we spend the time

Vith stately triumphs,⁵ mirthful comick shows,

such as befit the pleasures of the court ?—

Sound, drums and trumpets !—farewell, sour annoy !

'Fore here, I hope, begins our lasting joy. [*Exeunt.*⁶

³ *Work thou the way, &c.*] He speaks this line, first touching his hand, and then looking on his hand.

⁴ *Thanks, noble Clarence ; worthy brother, thanks.*] In my copy the second folio, which had belonged to King Charles the First, Majesty has erased—*Cl.* and written *King*, in its stead.—Shakspeare, therefore, in the catalogue of his restorers, may rest of a Royal name. STEEVENS.

⁵ *With stately triumphs,*] *Triumphs* are publick shows.

⁶ The three parts of *King Henry VI.* are suspected, by Mr. Theobald, of being supposititious, and are declared, by Dr. Warston, to be certainly not Shakspeare's. Mr. Theobald's suspi-

cion arises from some obsolete words ; but the phraseology is like the rest of our author's style, and single words, of which however I do not observe more than two, can conclude little.

Dr. Warburton gives no reason, but I suppose him to judge upon deeper principles and more comprehensive views, and to draw his opinion from the general effect and spirit of the composition, which he thinks inferior to the other historical plays.

From mere inferiority, nothing can be inferred ; in the production of wit there will be inequality. Sometimes judgment will err, and sometimes the matter itself will defeat the artist. Of every author's works, one will be the best, and one will be the worst. The colours are not equally pleasing, nor the attitudes equally graceful, in all the pictures of Titian or Reynolds.

Dissimilitude of style and heterogeneousness of sentiment, may sufficiently show that a work does not really belong to the reputed author. But in these plays no such marks of spuriousness are found. The diction, the versification, and the figures, are Shakspeare's. These plays, considered, without regard to characters and incidents, merely as narratives in verse, are more happily conceived, and, more accurately finished than those of *K. John*, *Richard II.* or the tragick scenes of *King Henry IV.* and *V.* If we take these plays from Shakspeare, to whom shall they be given? What author of that age had the same easiness of expression and fluency of numbers?

Having considered the evidence given by the plays themselves, and found it in their favour, let us now enquire what corroboration can be gained from other testimony. They are ascribed to Shakspeare by the first editors, whose attestation may be received in questions of fact, however unskilfully they superintended their edition. They seem to be declared genuine by the voice of Shakspeare himself, who refers to the second play in his epilogue to *King Henry V.* and apparently connects the first Act of *King Richard III.* with the last of *The Third Part of King Henry VI.* If it be objected that the plays were popular, and that therefore he alluded to them as well known ; it may be answered, with equal probability, that the natural passions of a poet would have disposed him to separate his own works from those of an inferior hand. And, indeed, if an author's own testimony is to be overthrown by speculative criticism, no man can be any longer secure of literary reputation.

Of these three plays I think the second the best. The truth is, that they have not sufficient variety of action, for the incidents are too often of the same kind ; yet many of the characters are well discriminated. King Henry, and his Queen, King Edward, the Duke of Gloster, and the Earl of Warwick, are very strongly and distinctly painted.

The old copies of the two latter parts of *King Henry VI.* and

King Henry V. are so apparently imperfect and mutilated, that there is no reason for supposing them the first draughts of Shakespeare. I am inclined to believe them copies taken by some auditor who wrote down, during the representation, what the time would permit, then perhaps filled up some of his omissions at a second or third hearing, and, when he had by this method formed something like a play, sent it to the printer. JOHNSON.

KING RICHARD III.*

VOL. VI.

K

* **LIFE AND DEATH OF KING RICHARD III.]** This tragedy, though it is called the Life and Death of this Prince, comprizes, at most, but the last eight years of his time; for it opens with George Duke of Clarence being clapped up in the Tower, which happened in the beginning of the year 1477; and closes with the death of Richard at Bosworth field, which battle was fought on the 22d of August, in the year 1485. **THEOBALD.**

It appears that several dramas on the present subject had been written before Shakspeare attempted it. See the notes at the conclusion of this play, which was first entered at Stationers' Hall by Andrew Wise, Oct. 20, 1597, under the title of *The Tragedie of King Richard the Third, with the Death of the Duke of Clarence*. Before this, viz. Aug. 15th, 1586, was entered, *A tragical Report of King Richard the Third, a Ballad*. It may be necessary to remark that the words, *song, ballad, enterlude and play*, were often synonymously used. **STEEVENS.**

This play was written, I imagine, in the same year in which it was first printed,—1597. *The Legend of King Richard III.* by Francis Seagars, was printed in the first edition of *The Mirrour for Magistrates*, 1559, and in that of 1575, and 1587, but Shakspeare does not appear to be indebted to it. In a subsequent edition of that book printed in 1610, the old legend was omitted, and a new one inserted, by Richard Niccols, who has very freely copied the play before us. In 1597, when this tragedy was published, Niccols, as Mr. Warton has observed, was but thirteen years old. *Hist. of Poetry*, vol. III. p. 267.

The real length of time in this piece is fourteen years; (not eight years, as Mr. Theobald supposed:) for the second scene commences with the funeral of King Henry VI. who, according to the received account, was murdered on the 21st of May, 1471. The imprisonment of Clarence, which is represented previously in the first scene, did not in fact take place till 1477-8.

It has been since observed to me by Mr. Elderton, (who is of opinion that Richard was charged with this murder by the Lancastrian historians without any foundation,) that "it appears on the face of the publick accounts allowed in the exchequer for the maintenance of King Henry and his numerous attendants in the Tower, that he lived to the 12th of June, which was twenty-two days after the time assigned for his pretended assassination; was exposed to the publick view in St. Paul's for some days, and interred at Chertsey with much solemnity, and at no inconsiderable expence." **MALONE.**

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

King Edward the Fourth.

Edward, Prince of Wales, afterwards K. Edward V. } *Sons to the King.*

Richard, Duke of York.

George, Duke of Clarence,
Richard, Duke of Gloster, afterwards King Richard III. } *Brothers to the King.*

A young Son of Clarence.

Henry, Earl of Richmond, afterwards K. Henry VII.
Cardinal Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Thomas Rotherham, Archbishop of York. *John*
Morton, Bishop of Ely.

Duke of Buckingham.

Duke of Norfolk: Earl of Surrey, his Son.

Earl Rivers, Brother to King Edward's Queen:

Marquis of Dorset, and Lord Grey, her Sons.

Earl of Oxford. Lord Hastings. Lord Stanley.

Lord Lovel.

Sir Thomas Vaughan. Sir Richard Ratcliff.

Sir William Catesby. Sir James Tyrrel,

Sir James Blount. Sir Walter Herbert.

Sir Robert Brakenbury, Lieutenant of the Tower.

Christopher Urswick, a Priest. Another Priest.

Lord Mayor of London. Sheriff of Wiltshire.

Elizabeth, Queen of King Edward IV.

Margaret, Widow of King Henry VI.

Duchess of York, Mother to King Edward IV.
Clarence, and Gloster.

Lady Anne, Widow of Edward Prince of Wales,
Son to King Henry VI.; afterwards married to
the Duke of Gloster.

A young Daughter of Clarence.

Lords, and other Attendants; two Gentlemen, &
Pursuivant, Scrivener, Citizens, Murderers,
Messengers, Ghosts, Soldiers, &c.

SCENE, England.

LIFE AND DEATH
OF
KING RICHARD III.

ACT. I.

SCENE I. London. *A Street.*

Enter GLOSTER.

Glo. Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this sun of York ;¹
And all the clouds, that lowr'd upon our house,
In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.
Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths ;
Our bruised arms hung up for monuments ;
Our stern alarums chang'd to merry meetings,
Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.²
Grim-visag'd war hath smooth'd his wrinkled front ;
And now,—instead of mounting barbed steeds,³
To fright the souls of fearful adversaries,—

¹ — *this sun of York ;*] Alluding to the cognizance of Edward IV. which was a *sun*, in memory of the *three suns*, which are said to have appeared at the battle which he gained over the Lancastrians at Mortimer's Cross.

² — *delightful measures.*] A *measure* was, strictly speaking, a court dance of a stately turn, though the word is sometimes employed to express dances in general.

³ — *barbed steeds,*] i. e. steeds caparisoned in a warlike manner. *Barbed*, however, may be no more than a corruption of *barbed*. *Equus bardatus*, in the Latin of the middle ages, was a horse adorned with military trappings.

He capers⁴ nimbly in a lady's chamber,
 To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.
 But I,—that am not shap'd for sportive tricks,
 Nor made to court an amorous looking-glass ;
 I, that am rudely stamp'd, and want love's majesty,
 To strut before a wanton ambling nymph ;
 I, that am curtail'd of this fair proportion,
 Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,⁵
 Deform'd, unfinish'd, sent before my time
 Into this breathing world, scarce half made up,
 And that so lamely and unfashionable,
 That dogs bark at me, as I halt by them ;
 Why I, in this weak piping time of peace,
 Have no delight to pass away the time ;
 Unless to spy my shadow in the sun,
 And descant on mine own deformity ;
 And therefore,—since I cannot prove a lover,⁶
 To entertain these fair well-spoken days,—
 I am determin'd to prove a villain,
 And hate the idle pleasures of these days.
 Plots have I laid, inductions dangerous,⁷
 By drunken prophecies, libels, and dreams,
 To set my brother Clarence, and the king,
 In deadly hate the one against the other :

⁴ *He capers*—] War *capers*. This is poetical, though a little harsh ; if it be York that capers, the antecedent is at such a distance, that it is almost forgotten.

⁵ *Cheated of feature by dissembling nature*,] By *dissembling* is not meant *hypocritical* nature, that pretends one thing, and does another : but nature that puts together things of a dissimilar kind, as a brave soul and a deformed body. *Feature* is used here, as in other pieces of the same age, for *beauty* in general.

⁶ *And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover*,] Shakespeare very diligently inculcates, that the wickedness of Richard proceeded from his deformity, from the envy that rose at the comparison of his own person with others, and which incited him to disturb the pleasures that he could not partake. JOHNSON.

⁷ — *inductions dangerous*,] Preparations for mischief. The *induction* is preparatory to the action of the play.

And, if king Edward be as true and just,
 As I am subtle, false, and treacherous,
 This day should Clarence closely be mew'd up;
 About a prophecy, which says—that G
 Of Edward's heirs the murderer shall be.
 Dive, thoughts, down to my soul! here Clarence
 comes.

Enter CLARENCE, guarded, and BRAKENBURY.

Brother, good day: What means this armed guard,
 That waits upon your grace?

Clar. His majesty,
 Tendering my person's safety, hath appointed
 This conduct to convey me to the Tower.

Glo. Upon what cause?

Clar. Because my name is—George.

Glo. Alack, my lord, that fault is none of yours;
 He should, for that, commit your godfathers:—
 O, belike, his majesty hath some intent,
 That you shall be new christen'd in the Tower.
 But what's the matter, Clarence? may I know?

Cl. Yea, Richard, when I know; for, I protest,
 As yet I do not: But, as I can learn,
 He hearkens after prophecies, and dreams;
 And from the cross-row plucks the letter G,
 And says—a wizard told him, that by G
 His issue disinherited should be;
 And, for my name of George begins with G,
 It follows in his thought, that I am he:
 These, as I learn, and such like toys^a as these,
 Have mov'd his highness to commit me now.

Glo. Why, this it is, when men are rul'd by
 women:—

'Tis not the king, that sends you to the Tower;
 My lady Grey, his wife, Clarence, 'tis she,

^a — toys —] Fancies, freaks of imagination.

That tempers him to this extremity.
 Was it not she, and that good man of worship,
 Antony Woodeville, her brother there,
 That made him send lord Hastings to the Tower ;
 From whence this present day he is deliver'd ?
 We are not safe, Clarence, we are not safe.

Clar. By heaven, I think, there is no man secure,
 But the queen's kindred, and night-walking heralds
 That trudge betwixt the king and mistress Shore.
 Heard you not, what an humble suppliant
 Lord Hastings was to her for his delivery ?

Glo. Humbly complaining to her deity
 Got my lord chamberlain his liberty.
 I'll tell you what,—I think, it is our way,
 If we will keep in favour with the king,
 To be her men, and wear her livery :
 The jealous o'er-worn widow, and herself,⁹
 Since that our brother dubb'd them gentlewomen,
 Are mighty gossips in this monarchy.

Brak. I beseech your graces both to pardon me ;
 His majesty hath straitly given in charge,
 That no man shall have private conference,
 Of what degree soever, with his brother.

Glo. Even so ? an please your worship, Brakenbury,
 You may partake of any thing we say :
 We speak no treason, man ;—We say, the king
 Is wise, and virtuous ; and his noble queen
 Well struck in years ; fair, and not jealous :—
 We say, that Shore's wife hath a pretty foot,
 A cherry lip,
 A bonny eye, a passing pleasing tongue ;
 And the queen's kindred are made gentlefolks :
 How say you, sir ? can you deny all this ?

Brak. With this, my lord, myself have nought
 to do.

⁹ *The jealous o'er-worn widow, and herself,]* That is, the Queen
 and Shore.

Glo. Naught to do with mistress Shore? I tell thee, fellow,

He that doth naught with her, excepting one,
Were best to do it secretly, alone.

Brak. What one, my lord?

Glo. Her husband, knave:—Would'st thou betray me?

Brak. I beseech your grace to pardon me; and, withal,

Forbear your conference with the noble duke.

Clar. We know thy charge, Brakenbury, and will obey.

Glo. We are the queen's abjects,¹ and must obey. Brother, farewell: I will unto the king;

And whatsoever you will employ me in,—

Were it, to call king Edward's widow—sister,—

I will perform it to enfranchise you.

Mean time, this deep disgrace in brotherhood,

Touches me deeper than you can imagine.

Clar. I know it pleaseth neither of us well.

Glo. Well, your imprisonment shall not be long;

I will deliver you, or else lie for you:²

Mean time, have patience.

Clar. I must perforce; farewell.

[*Exeunt CLARENCE, BRAKENBURY, and Guard.*]

Glo. Go, tread the path that thou shalt ne'er return,

Simple, plain Clarence!—I do love thee so,

That I will shortly send thy soul to heaven,

If heaven will take the present at our hands.

But who comes here? the new-deliver'd Hastings?

¹ — the queen's abjects,] The most servile of her subjects, who must of course obey all her commands.

² — lie for you:] i. e. be imprisoned in your stead. To lie was anciently to reside, as appears by many instances in these volumes.

Enter HASTINGS.

Hast. Good time of day unto my gracious lord!

Glo. As much unto my good lord chamberlain!

Well are you welcome to this open air.

How hath your lordship brook'd imprisonment?

Hast. With patience, noble lord, as prisoners must;
But I shall live, my lord, to give them thanks,
That were the cause of my imprisonment.

Glo. No doubt, no doubt; and so shall Clarence
too;

For they, that were your enemies, are his,
And have prevail'd as much on him as you.

Hast. More pity, that the eagle should be mew'd,³
While kites and buzzards prey at liberty.

Glo. What news abroad?

Hast. No news so bad abroad, as this at home;—
The king is sickly, weak, and melancholy,
And his physicians fear him mightily.

Glo. Now, by Saint Paul, this news is bad indeed.
O, he hath kept an evil diet⁴ long,
And over-much consum'd his royal person;
'Tis very grievous to be thought upon.
What, is he in his bed?

Hast. He is,

Glo. Go you before, and I will follow you.

[*Exit HASTINGS.*]

He cannot live, I hope; and must not die,
Till George be pack'd with posthorse up to heaven.
I'll in to urge his hatred more to Clarence,
With lies well steel'd with weighty arguments;
And, if I fail not in my deep intent,
Clarence hath not another day to live;

³ ——— *should be mew'd,*] A *mew* was the place of confinement
where a hawk was kept till he had moulted.

⁴ ——— *an evil diet* —] i. e. a bad regimen.

Which done, God take king Edward to his mercy,
 And leave the world for me to bustle in !
 For then I'll marry Warwick's youngest daughter :
 What, though I kill'd her husband, and her father ?
 The readiest way to make the wench amends,
 Is—to become her husband, and her father :
 The which will I ; not all so much for love,
 As for another secret close intent,
 By marrying her, which I must reach unto.
 But yet I run before my horse to market :
 Clarence still breathes ; Edward still lives, and reigns ;
 When they are gone, then must I count my gains.
 [Exit.

SCENE II.

The same. Another Street.

Enter the Corpse of King HENRY the Sixth, borne in an open Coffin, Gentlemen bearing Halberds, to guard it ; and Lady ANNE as Mourner.

Anne. Set down, set down your honourable load,—
 If honour may be shrouded in a hearse,—
 Whilst I a while obsequiously lament⁵
 The untimely fall of virtuous Lancaster.—
 Poor key-cold⁶ figure of a holy king !
 Pale ashes of the house of Lancaster !
 Thou bloodless remnant of that royal blood !
 Be it lawful that I invoke thy ghost,
 To hear the lamentations of poor Anne,
 Wife to thy Edward, to thy slaughter'd son,

⁵ — obsequiously lament —] *Obsequious*, in this instance, means *funereal*.

⁶ — *key-cold* —] A key, on account of the coldness of the metal of which it is composed, was anciently employed to stop any slight bleeding. The epithet is common to many old writers.

Stabb'd by the self-same hand that made these wounds !

Lo, in these windows, that let forth thy life,
 I pour the helpless balm of my poor eyes :—
 O, cursed be the hand that made these holes !
 Cursed the heart, that had the heart to do it !
 Cursed the blood, that let this blood from hence !
 More direful hap betide that hated wretch,
 That makes us wretched by the death of thee,
 Than I can wish to adders, spiders, toads,
 Or any creeping venom'd thing that lives !
 If ever he have child, abortive be it,
 Prodigious, and untimely brought to light,
 Whose ugly and unnatural aspect
 May fright the hopeful mother at the view ;
 And that be heir to his unhappiness !⁷
 If ever he have wife, let her be made
 More miserable by the death of him,
 Than I am made by my young lord, and thee !—
 Come, now, toward Chertsey with your holy load,
 Taken from Paul's to be interred there ;
 And, still as you are weary of the weight,
 Rest you, whiles I lament king Henry's corse.

[The Bearers take up the Corpse, and advance.]

Enter GLOSTER.

Glo. Stay you, that bear the corse, and set it down.

Anne. What black magician conjures up this fiend,
 To stop devoted charitable deeds ?

Glo. Villains, set down the corse ; or, by Saint Paul,
 I'll make a corse of him that disobeys.

1 Gent. My lord, stand back, and let the coffin
 pass.

Glo. Unmanner'd dog ! stand thou when I com-
 mand :

⁷ ——— to his unhappiness !] i. e. disposition to mischief.

Advance thy halberd higher than my breast,
Or, by Saint Paul, I'll strike thee to my foot,
And spurn upon thee, beggar, for thy boldness.

[*The Bearers set down the Coffin.*]

Anne. What, do you tremble? are you all afraid?
Alas, I blame you not; for you are mortal,
And mortal eyes cannot endure the devil.—
Avaunt, thou dreadful minister of hell!
Thou had'st but power over his mortal body,
His soul thou canst not have; therefore, be gone.

Glo. Sweet saint, for charity, be not so curst.

Anne. Foul devil, for God's sake, hence, and
trouble us not;

For thou hast made the happy earth thy hell,
Fill'd it with cursing cries, and deep exclams.
If thou delight to view thy heinous deeds,
Behold this pattern of thy butcheries:⁸
O, gentlemen, see, see! dead Henry's wounds
Open their congeal'd mouths, and bleed afresh!⁹
Blush, blush, thou lump of foul deformity;
For 'tis thy presence that exhales this blood
From cold and empty veins, where no blood dwells;
Thy deed, inhuman and unnatural,
Provokes this deluge most unnatural.—
O God, which this blood mad'st, revenge his death!
O earth, which this blood drink'st, revenge his death!
Either, heaven, with lightning strike the murderer
dead,

Or, earth, gape open wide, and eat him quick;
As thou dost swallow up this good king's blood,
Which his hell-govern'd arm hath butchered!

⁸ ——— pattern of thy butcheries;] *Pattern* is instance, or example.

⁹ ——— see! dead Henry's wounds

Open their congeal'd mouths, and bleed afresh!] It is a tradition very generally received, that the murdered body bleeds on the touch of the murderer. This was so much believed by Sir Kenelm Digby, that he has endeavoured to explain the reason.

Glo. Lady, you know no rules of charity,
Which renders good for bad, blessings for curses.

Anne. Villain, thou know'st no law of God nor man;
No beast so fierce, but knows some touch of pity.

Glo. But I know none, and therefore am no beast.

Anne. O wonderful, when devils tell the truth!

Glo. More wonderful, when angels are so angry.—
Vouchsafe, divine perfection of a woman,
Of these supposed evils, to give me leave,
By circumstance, but to acquit myself.

Anne. Vouchsafe, diffus'd infection of a man,¹
For these known evils, but to give me leave,
By circumstance, to curse thy cursed self.

Glo. Fairer than tongue can name thee, let me
have
Some patient leisure to excuse myself.

Anne. Fouler than heart can think thee, thou
canst make
No excuse current, but to hang thyself.

Glo. By such despair, I should accuse myself.

Anne. And, by despairing, shalt thou stand ex-
cus'd;

For doing worthy vengeance on thyself,
That didst unworthy slaughter upon others.

Glo. Say, that I slew them not?

Anne. Why then, they are not dead:
But dead they are, and, devilish slave, by thee.

Glo. I did not kill your husband.

Anne. Why, then he is alive.

Glo. Nay, he is dead; and slain by Edward's hand.

Anne. In thy soul's throat thou liest; queen
Margaret saw
Thy murderous faulchion smoking in his blood;

¹ *Vouchsafe, diffus'd infection of a man,]* *Diffus'd infection of a man* may mean, thou that art as dangerous as a pestilence, that infects the air by its diffusion. *Diffus'd* may, however, mean irregular.

That which thou once didst bend against her breast,
But that thy brothers beat aside the point.

Glo. I was provoked by her sland'rous tongue,
That laid their guilt¹ upon my guiltless shoulders.

Anne. Thou wast provoked by thy bloody mind,
That never dreamt on aught but butcheries :
Didst thou not kill this king ?

Glo. I grant ye.

Anne. Dost grant me, hedge-hog ? then, God
grant me too,
Thou may'st be damned for that wicked deed !
O, he was gentle, mild, and virtuous.

Glo. The fitter for the King of heaven that hath
him.

Anne. He is in heaven, where thou shalt never
come.

Glo. Let him thank me, that help to send him
thither ;

For he was fitter for that place, than earth.

Anne. And thou unfit for any place but hell.

Glo. Yes, one place else, if you will hear me
name it.

Anne. Some dungeon ?

Glo. Your bed-chamber.

Anne. Ill rest betide the chamber where thou liest !

Glo. So will it, madam, till I lie with you,

Anne. I hope so.

Glo. I know so.—But, gentle lady Anne,—
To leave this keen encounter of our wits,
And fall somewhat into a slower method ;³—
Is not the causer of the timeless deaths
Of these Plantagenets, Henry, and Edward,
As blameful as the executioner ?

¹ *That laid their guilt* —] The crime of my brothers. He has just charged the murder of Lady Anne's husband upon Edward.

³ — *a slower method* ;] As *quick* was used for *spritely*, so *slower* was put for *serious*.

Anne. Thou wast the cause, and most accur'd effect.

Glo. Your beauty, was the cause of that effect;
Your beauty, which did haunt me in my sleep,
To undertake the death of all the world,
So I might live one hour in your sweet bosom.

Anne. If I thought that, I tell thee, homicide,
These nails should rend that beauty from my cheeks.

Glo. These eyes could not endure that beauty's wreck,

You should not blemish it, if I stood by :

As all the world is cheered by the sun,

So I by that ; it is my day, my life.

Anne. Black night o'ershadeth thy day, and death thy life !

Glo. Curse not thyself, fair creature ; thou art both.

Anne. I would I were, to be reveng'd on thee.

Glo. It is a quarrel most unnatural,
To be reveng'd on him that loveth thee.

Anne. It is a quarrel just and reasonable,
To be reveng'd on him that kill'd my husband.

Glo. He that bereft thee, lady, of thy husband,
Did it to help thee to a better husband.

Anne. His better doth not breathe upon the earth.

Glo. He lives, that loves you better than he could.

Anne. Name him.

Glo. Plantagenet.

Anne. Why, that was he.

Glo. The self-same name, but one of better nature.

Anne. Where is he ?

Glo. Here : [*She spits at him.*] Why dost thou spit at me ?

Anne. 'Would it were mortal poison, for thy sake !

Glo. Never came poison from so sweet a place.

Anne. Never hung poison on a fouler toad.
Out of my sight ! thou dost infect mine eyes.

Glo. Thine eyes, sweet lady, have infected mine.

Anne. Would they were basilisks, to strike thee dead!

Glo. I would they were, that I might die at once;
For now they kill me with a living death.

Those eyes of thine from mine have drawn salt tears,
Sham'd their aspects with store of childish drops:

These eyes, which never shed remorseful tear,—

Not, when my father York and Edward wept,

To hear the piteous moan that Rutland made,

When black-fac'd Clifford shook his sword at him:

Nor when thy warlike father, like a child,

Told the sad story of my father's death;

And twenty times made pause, to sob, and weep,

That all the standers-by had wet their cheeks,

Like trees bedash'd with rain: in that sad time,

My manly eyes did scorn an humble tear;

And what these sorrows could not thence exhale,

Thy beauty hath, and made them blind with weeping.

I never su'd to friend, nor enemy;

My tongue could never learn sweet soothing word;

But now thy beauty is propos'd my fee,

My proud heart sues, and prompts my tongue to speak.

[She looks scornfully at him.]

Teach not thy lip such scorn; for it was made

For kissing, lady, not for such contempt.

If thy revengeful heart cannot forgive,

Lo! here I lend thee this sharp-pointed sword;

Which if thou please to hide in this true breast,

And let the soul forth that adareth thee,

I lay it naked to the deadly stroke,

And humbly beg the death upon my knee.

[He lays his Breast open; she offers at it with his Sword.]

Nay, do not pause; for I did kill king Henry;—

But 'twas thy beauty that provoked me.

* But 'twas thy beauty —] Shakspeare countenances the ob-

Nay, now despatch ; 'twas I that-stabb'd young Edward :— [*She again offers at his Breast.*
But 'twas thy heavenly face that set me on.

[*She lets fall the Sword.*

Take up the sword again, or take up me.

Anne. Arise, dissembler: though I wish thy death,
I will not be thy executioner.

Glo. Then bid me kill myself, and I will do it.

Anne. I have already.

Glo. That was in thy rage :

Speak it again, and, even with the word,
This hand, which, for thy love, did kill thy love,
Shall, for thy love, kill a far truer love ;
To both their deaths shalt thou be accessary.

Anne. I would, I knew thy heart.

Glo. 'Tis figur'd in

My tongue.

Anne. I fear me, both are false.

Glo. Then man

Was never true.

Anne. Well, well, put up your sword.

Glo. Say then, my peace is made.

Anne. That shall you know

Hereafter.

Glo. But shall I live in hope ?

Anne. All men,

I hope, live so.

Glo. Vouchsafe to wear this ring.

Anne. To take, is not to give.

[*She puts on the Ring.*

Glo. Look, how this ring encompasseth thy finger,
Even so thy breast encloseth my poor heart ;
Wear both of them, for both of them are thine.
And if thy poor devoted servant may

servation, that no woman can ever be offended with the mention
of her beauty. JOHNSON.

But beg one favour at thy gracious hand,
Thou dost confirm his happiness for ever.

Anne. What is it.

Glo. That it may please you leave thesesad designs
To him that hath more cause to be a mourner,
And presently repair to Crosby-place :^s
Where—after I have solemnly interr'd,
At Chertsey monast'ry this noble king,
And wet his grave with my repentant tears,—
[will with all expedient duty see you :
For divers unknown reasons I beseech you,
Grant me this boon.

Anne. With all my heart; and much it joys me too,
To see you are become so penitent.—
Tressel, and Berkley, go along with me.

Glo. Bid me farewell.

Anne. 'Tis more than you deserve :
But, since you teach me how to flatter you,
[Imagine I have said farewell already.

[*Exeunt Lady ANNE, TRESSEL, and BERKLEY.*

Glo. Take up the corse, sirs.

Gent. Towards Chertsey, noble lord ?

Glo. No, to White-Friars; there attend my coming.

[*Exeunt the rest, with the Corse.*

Was ever woman in this humour woo'd ?
Was ever woman in this humour won ?
I'll have her,—but I will not keep her long.
What ! I, that kill'd her husband, and his father,
To take her in her heart's extremest hate ;
With curses in her mouth, tears in her eyes,
The bleeding witness of her hatred by ;
With God, her conscience, and these bars against me,
And I no friends to back my suit withal,
But the plain devil, and dissembling looks,

^s — Crosby-place :] A house near Bishopsgate-street, belonging to the duke of Gloster, now Crosby-square, where part of the house is yet remaining.

And yet to win her,—all the world to nothing !
 Ha !
 Hath she forgot already that brave prince,
 Edward, her lord, whom I some three months since,
 Stabb'd in my angry mood at Tewksbury ?
 A sweeter and a lovelier gentleman,—
 Fram'd in the prodigality of nature,
 Young, valiant, wise, and, no doubt, right royal,—
 The spacious world cannot again afford :
 And will she yet abase her eyes on me,
 That cropp'd the golden prime of this sweet prince,
 And made her widow to a woful bed ?
 On me, whose all not equals Edward's moiety ?
 On me, that halt, and am misshapen thus ?
 My dukedom to a beggarly denier,⁶
 I do mistake my person all this while :
 Upon my life, she finds, although I cannot,
 Myself to be a marvellous proper man.
 I'll be at charges for a looking-glass ;
 And entertain a score or two of tailors,
 To study fashions to adorn my body :
 Since I am crept in favour with myself,
 I will maintain it with some little cost.
 But, first, I'll turn yon' fellow in his grave ;
 And then return lamenting to my love.—
 Shine out, fair sun, till I have bought a glass,
 That I may see my shadow as I pass. [Exit.

⁶ — a *beggarly denier*,] A *denier* is the twelfth part of a French sous, and appears to have been the usual request of a *beggar*.

SCENE III.

The same. A Room in the Palace.

Enter Queen ELIZABETH, Lord RIVERS, and Lord GREY.

Riv. Have patience, madam; there's no doubt,
his majesty
Will soon recover his accustom'd health.

Grey. In that you brook it ill, it makes him worse:
Therefore, for God's sake, entertain good comfort,
And cheer his grace with quick and merry words.

Q. Eliz. If he were dead, what would betide of me?

Grey. No other harm, but loss of such a lord.

Q. Eliz. The loss of such a lord includes all harms.

Grey. The heavens have bless'd you with a
goodly son,
To be your comforter, when he is gone.

Q. Eliz. Ah, he is young; and his minority
Is put unto the trust of Richard Gloster,
A man that loves not me, nor none of you.

Riv. Is it concluded, he shall be protector?

Q. Eliz. It is determin'd, not concluded yet:
But so it must be, if the king miscarry.

Enter BUCKINGHAM and STANLEY.

Grey. Here come the lords of Buckingham and
Stanley.

Buck. Good time of day unto your royal grace!

Stan. God make your majesty joyful as you have
been!

Q. Eliz. The countess Richmond, good my lord
of Stanley,
To your good prayer will scarcely say—amen.

Yet, Stanley, notwithstanding she's your wife,

And loves not me, be you, good lord, assur'd,
I hate not you for her proud arrogance.

Stan. I do beseech you, either not believe
The envious slanders of her false accusers;
Or, if she be accus'd on true report,
Bear with her weakness, which, I think, proceeds
From wayward sickness, and no grounded malice.

Q. Eliz. Saw you the king to-day, my lord of
Stanley?

Stan. But now, the duke of Buckingham, and I,
Are come from visiting his majesty.

Q. Eliz. What likelihood of his amendment, lords?

Buck. Madam, good hope; his grace speaks
cheerfully.

Q. Eliz. God grant him health! did you confer
with him?

Buck. Ay, madam: he desires to make atonement
Between the duke of Gloster and your brothers,
And between them and my lord chamberlain;
And sent to warn them⁷ to his royal presence.

Q. Eliz. 'Would all were well!—But that will
never be;—

I fear, our happiness is at the height.

Enter GLOSTER, HASTINGS, and DORSET.

Glo. They do me wrong, and I will not endure
it:—

Who are they, that complain unto the king,
That I, forsooth, am stern, and love them not?
By holy Paul, they love his grace but lightly,
That fill his ears with such dissentious rumours.
Because I cannot flatter, and speak fair,
Smile in men's faces, smooth, deceive, and cog,
Duck with French nods and apish courtesy,⁸

⁷ — to warn them —] i. e. to summon.

I must be held a rancorous enemy.

Cannot a plain man live, and think no harm,

But thus his simple truth must be abus'd

By silken, sly, insinuating Jacks?

Grey. To whom in all this presence speaks your grace?

Glo. To thee, that hast nior honesty, nor grace.

When have I injur'd thee? when done thee wrong?—

Or thee?—or thee?—or any of your faction?

A plague upon you all! His royal grace,—

Whom God preserve better than you would wish!—

Cannot be quiet scarce a breathing-while,

But you must trouble him with lewd complaints.⁹

Q. Eliz. Brother of Gloster, you mistake the matter :

The king, of his own royal disposition,

And not provok'd by any suitor else ;

Aiming, belike, at your interior hatred,

That in your outward action shows itself,

Against my children, brothers, and myself,

Makes him to send ; that thereby he may gather

The ground of your ill-will, and so remove it.

Glo. I cannot tell ;—The world is grown so bad,

That wrens may prey where eagles dare not perch :

Since every Jack became a gentleman,¹

There's many a gentle person made a Jack.

⁸ ————— speak fair,

Smile in men's faces, smooth, deceive, and cog,

Duck with French nods and apish courtesy,] An importation of artificial manners seems to have afforded our ancient poets a never failing topick of invective.

⁹ ————— with lewd complaints.] *Lewd*, in the present instance, signifies rude, ignorant ; from the Anglo-Saxon *Laewode*, a *Laick*. Chaucer often uses the word *lewd*, both for a *laick* and an ignorant person.

¹ *Since every Jack became a gentleman,*] This proverbial expression at once demonstrates the origin of the term *Jack* so often used by Shakspeare. It means one of the very lowest class of people, among whom this name is of the most common and familiar kind.

Q. Eliz. Come, come, we know your meaning,
brother Gloster ;

You envy my advancement, and my friends ;
God grant, we never may have need of you !

Glo. Meantime, God grants that we have need of
you :

Our brother is imprison'd by your means,
Myself disgrac'd, and the nobility
Held in contempt ; while great promotions
Are daily given, to ennoble those
That scarce, some two days since, were worth a noble.

Q. Eliz. By Him, that rais'd me to this careful
height

From that contented hap which I enjoy'd,
I never did incense his majesty
Against the duke of Clarence, but have been
An earnest advocate to plead for him.
My lord, you do me shameful injury,
Falsely to draw me in these vile suspects.

Glo. You may deny that you were not the cause
Of my lord Hastings' late imprisonment.

Riv. She may, my lord ; for——

Glo. She may, lord Rivers ?—why, who knows
not so ?

She may do more, sir, than denying that :
She may help you to many fair preferments ;
And then deny her aiding hand therein,
And lay those honours on your high desert.
What may she not ? She may,—ay, marry, may she,—

Riv. What, marry, may she ?

Glo. What, marry, may she ? marry with a king,
A bachelor, a handsome stripling too :
I wis, your grandam had a worser match.

Q. Eliz. My lord of Gloster, I have too long borne
Your blunt upbraidings, and your bitter scoffs :
By heaven, I will acquaint his majesty,
Of those gross taunts I often have endur'd.

I had rather be a country servant-maid,
Than a great queen, with this condition—
To be so baited, scorn'd, and stormed at :
Small joy have I in being England's queen.

Enter Queen MARGARET, behind.

Q. Mar. And lessen'd be that small, God, I beseech thee !

Thy honour, state, and seat, is due to me.

Glo. What? threat you me with telling of the king?
Tell him, and spare not : look, what I have said
I will avouch, in presence of the king :
I dare adventure to be sent to the Tower.

'Tis time to speak, my pains² are quite forgot.

Q. Mar. Out, devil ! I remember them too well :
Thou kill'dst my husband Henry in the Tower,
And Edward, my poor son, at Tewksbury.

Glo. Ere you were queen, ay, or your husband
king,

I was a pack-horse in his great affairs ;
A weeder-out of his proud adversaries,
A liberal rewarder of his friends ;
To royalize³ his blood, I spilt mine own.

Q. Mar. Ay, and much better blood than his, or
thine.

Glo. In all which time, you, and your husband
Grey,

Were factious for the house of Lancaster ;—
And, Rivers, so were you :—Was not your husband
In Margaret's battle⁴ at Saint Albans slain ?
Let me put in your minds, if you forget,
What you have been ere now, and what you are ;
Withal, what I have been, and what I am.

² — my pains —] My labours, my toils.

³ — royalize —] i. e. to make royal.

⁴ Margaret's battle—] Is—Margaret's army.

Q. Mar. A murd'rous villain, and so still thou art.

Glo. Poor Clarence did forsake his father Warwick,
Ay, and forswore himself,—Which Jesu pardon!

Q. Mar. Which God revenge!

Glo. To fight on Edward's party, for the crown;
And, for his meed, poor lord, he is mew'd up:
I would to God, my heart were flint like Edward's,
Or Edward's soft and pitiful, like mine;
I am too childish-foolish for this world.

Q. Mar. Hie thee to hell for shame, and leave this
world,

Thou cacodæmon! there thy kingdom is.

Riv. My lord of Gloster, in those busy days,
Which here you urge, to prove us enemies,
We follow'd then our lord, our lawful king;
So should we you, if you should be our king.

Glo. If I should be?—I had rather be a pedlar:
Far be it from my heart, the thought thereof!

Q. Eliz. As little joy, my lord, as you suppose
You should enjoy, were you this country's king;
As little joy you may suppose in me,
That I enjoy, being the queen thereof.

Q. Mar. A little joy enjoys the queen thereof;
For I am she, and altogether joyless.
I can no longer hold me patient.— [*Advancing.*
Hear me, you wrangling pirates, that fall out
In sharing that which you have pill'd from me:⁵
Which of you trembles not, that looks on me?
If not, that, I being queen, you bow like subjects;
Yet that, by you depos'd, you quake like rebels:
Ah, gentle villain,⁶ do not turn away!

Glo. Foul wrinkled witch, what mak'st thou in
my sight?⁷

⁵ — which you have pill'd from me:] To pill is to pillage.

⁶ Ah, gentle villain,] Gentle appears to be taken in its common acceptation, but to be used ironically.

⁷ — what mak'st thou in my sight?] An obsolete expression for—what dost thou in my sight.

Q. Mar. But repetition of what thou hast marr'd;
That will I make, before I let thee go.

Glo. Wert thou not banished on pain of death?

Q. Mar. I was; but I do find more pain in banishment,

Than death can yield me here by my abode.

A husband, and a son, thou ow'st to me,—

And thou, a kingdom;—all of you, allegiance:

This sorrow that I have, by right is yours;

And all the pleasures you usurp, are mine.

Glo. The curse my noble father laid on thee,—
When thou didst crown his warlike brows with paper,

And with thy scorns drew'st rivers from his eyes;

And then, to dry them, gav'st the duke a clout,

Steep'd in the faultless blood of pretty Rutland;—

His curses, then from bitterness of soul

Denounc'd against thee, are all fallen upon thee;

And God, not we, hath plagu'd thy bloody deed.*

Q. Eliz. So just is God, to right the innocent.

Hast. O, 'twas the foulest deed to slay that babe,
And the most merciless, that e'er was heard of.

Riv. Tyrants themselves wept when it was reported.

Dors. No man but prophesied revenge for it.

Buck. Northumberland, then present, wept to see it.

Q. Mar. What! were you snarling all, before I came,
Ready to catch each other by the throat,

And turn you all your hatred now on me?

Did York's dread curse prevail so much with heaven,

That Henry's death, my lovely Edward's death,

Their kingdom's loss, my woful banishment,

Could all but answer for that peevish brat?

Can curses pierce the clouds, and enter heaven?—

* — *hath plagu'd thy bloody deed.*] To plague, in ancient language, is to punish.

Why, then give way, dull clouds, to my quick
curses !——

Though not by war, by surfeit die your king !⁹
As ours by murder, to make him a king !
Edward, thy son, that now is prince of Wales,
For Edward, my son, that was prince of Wales,
Die in his youth, by like untimely violence !
Thyself a queen, for me that was a queen,
Outlive thy glory, like my wretched self !
Long may'st thou live to wail thy children's loss ;
And see another, as I see thee now,
Deck'd in thy rights, as thou art stall'd in mine !
Long die thy happy days before thy death ;
And, after many lengthen'd hours of grief,
Die neither mother, wife, nor England's queen !—
Rivers,—and Dorset,—you were standers by,—
And so wast thou, lord Hastings,—when my son
Was stabb'd with bloody daggers ; God, I pray him,
That none of you may live your natural age,
But by some unlook'd accident cut off !

Glo. Have done thy charm, thou hateful wither'd
hag.

Q. Mar. And leave out thee ? stay, dog, for thou
shalt hear me.

If heaven have any grievous plague in store,
Exceeding those that I can wish upon thee,
O, let them keep it, till thy sins be ripe,
And then hurl down their indignation
On thee, the troubler of the poor world's peace !
The worm of conscience still be-gnaw thy soul !
Thy friends suspect for traitors while thou liv'st,
And take deep traitors for thy dearest friends !
No sleep close up that deadly eye of thine,
Unless it be while some tormenting dream
Affrights thee with a hell of ugly devils !

⁹ —— *by surfeit die your king,*] Alluding to his luxurious life.

elvish-mark'd,¹ abortive, rooting hog!²
 That wast seal'd in thy nativity
 Slave of nature,³ and the son of hell!
 Under of thy mother's heavy womb!
 Battered issue of thy father's loins!
 Beggar of honour! thou detested——

Margaret.

Mar. Richard!

Ha?

Mar. I call thee not.

I cry thee mercy then; for I did think,
 Thou had'st call'd me all these bitter names.

Mar. Why, so I did; but look'd for no reply.
 I'll make the period to my curse.

'Tis done by me; and ends in—Margaret.

Elizabeth. Thus have you breath'd your curse
 Against yourself.

Mar. Poor painted queen, vain flourish of
 My fortune!

How brew'st thou sugar on that bottled spider,⁴

Whose deadly web ensnareth thee about?

How wilt thou whet'st a knife to kill thyself.

Why will you come, that thou shalt wish for me

To thee curse this pois'nous bunch-back'd toad.

elvish-mark'd,] The common people in Scotland, (as from Kelly's *Proverbs*,) have still an aversion to those : any natural defect or redundancy, as thinking them out for mischief.

rooting hog!] The expression is fine, alluding (in meher young son) to the ravage which hogs make, with the wevers, in gardens; and intimating that Elizabeth was to no other treatment for her sons. **WARBURTON.**

slave of nature,] The expression is strong and noble, and to the ancient custom of masters branding their profligate by which it is insinuated that his misshapen person was the nature had set upon him to stigmatize his ill conditions.

bottled spider,] A spider is called bottled, because, like eels, he has a middle slender, and a belly protuberant. His form and venom made her liken him to a spider.

Hust. False-boding woman, end thy frantick course;
Lest, to thy harm, thou move our patience.

Q. Mar. Foul shame upon you, you have all
mov'd mine.

Riv. Were you well serv'd, you would be taught
your duty.

Q. Mar. To serve me well, you all should do me
duty,

Teach me to be your queen, and you my subjects:
O, serve me well, and teach yourselves that duty.

Dor. Dispute not with her, she is lunatick.

Q. Mar. Peace, mastermarquis, you are malapert:
Your fire-new stamp of honour is scarce current:
O, that your young nobility could judge,
What 'twere to lose it, and be miserable!
They that stand high, have many blasts to shake them;
And, if they fall, they dash themselves to pieces.

Glo. Good counsel, marry; learn it, learn it,
marquis.

Dor. It touches you, my lord, as much as me.

Glo. Ay, and much more: But I was born so high,
Our aiery buildeth in the cedar's top,
And dallies with the wind, and scorns the sun.

Q. Mar. And turns the sun to shade;—alas!
alas!—

Witness my son, now in the shade of death:⁵
Whose bright out-shining beams thy cloudy wrath
Hath in eternal darkness folded up.

Your aiery buildeth in our aiery's nest:⁶—

O God, that see'st it, do no suffer it;
As it was won with blood, lost be it so!

⁵ *Witness my son, &c.*] Her distress cannot prevent her quibbling. It may be here remarked, that the introduction of Margaret in this place is against all historical evidence. She was ransomed and sent to France soon after Tewksbury fight, and there passed the remainder of her wretched life.

⁶ *Your aiery buildeth in our aiery's nest :*] An *aiery* is a hawk's or an eagle's nest.

Buck. Peace, peace, for shame, if not for charity.

Q. Mar. Urge neither charity nor shame to me;
Uncharitably with me have you dealt,
And shamefully by you my hopes are butcher'd.
My charity is outrage, life my shame,—
And in my shame still live my sorrow's rage!

Buck. Have done, have done.

Q. Mar. O princely Buckingham, I kiss thy hand,
In sign of league and amity with thee:
Now fair befall thee, and thy noble house!
Thy garments are not spotted with our blood,
Nor thou within the compass of my curse.

Buck. Nor no one here; for curses never pass
The lips of those that breathe them in the air.

Q. Mar. I'll not believe but they ascend the sky,
And there awake God's gentle-sleeping peace.
O Buckingham, beware of yonder dog;
Look, when he fawns, he bites; and, when he bites,
His venom tooth will rankle to the death:
Have not to do with him, beware of him;
Sin, death, and hell, have set their marks on him;
And all their ministers attend on him.

Glo. What doth she say, my lord of Buckingham?

Buck. Nothing that I respect, my gracious lord.

Q. Mar. What, dost thou scorn me for my
gentle counsel?

And sooth the devil that I warn thee from?
O, but remember this another day,
When he shall split thy very heart with sorrow;
And say, poor Margaret was a prophetess.—
Live each of you the subjects to his hate,
And he to yours, and all of you to God's! [*Exit.*

Hast. My hair doth stand on end to hear her
curses.

Riv. And so doth mine; I muse, why she's at
liberty.

Glo. I cannot blame her, by God's holy mother;

She hath had too much wrong, and I repent
My part thereof, that I have done to her.

Q. Eliz. I never did her any, to my knowledge.

Glo. Yet you have all the vantage of her wrong.
I was too hot to do some body good,
That is too cold in thinking of it now.

Marry, as for Clarence, he is well repaid;
He is frank'd up to fatting for his pains;⁷—
God pardon them that are the cause thereof!

Riv. A virtuous and a christian-like conclusion,
To pray for them that have done scath to us.⁸

Glo. So do I ever, being well advis'd;—
For had I curs'd now, I had curs'd myself. [*Aside.*]

Enter CATESBY.

Cates. Madam, his majesty doth call for you,—
And for your grace,—and you, my noble lords.

Q. Eliz. Catesby, I come:—Lords, will you go
with me?

Riv. Madam, we will attend upon your grace.
[*Exeunt all but GLOSTER.*]

Glo. I do the wrong, and first begin to brawl.
The secret mischiefs that I set abroad,
I lay unto the grievous charge of others.
Clarence,—whom I, indeed, have laid in darkness,—
I do bewEEP to many simple gulls;
Namely, to Stanley, Hastings, Buckingham;
And tell them—'tis the queen and her allies,
That stir the king against the duke my brother.
Now they believe it; and withal whet me
To be reveng'd on Rivers, Vaughan, Grey:
But then I sigh, and, with a piece of scripture,

⁷ *He is frank'd up to fatting for his pains:] A frank is an old English word for a hog-sty, or pen. 'Tis possible he uses this metaphor to Clarence, in allusion to the crest of the family of York, which was a boar.*

⁸ — done scath to us.] *Scath is harm, mischief.*

Tell them—that God bids us do good for evil :
And thus I clothe my naked villainy
With old odd ends, stol'n forth of holy writ ;
And seem a saint, when most I play the devil.

Enter Two Murderers.

But soft, here come my executioners.—

How now, my hardy, stout resolved mates ?

Are you now going to despatch this thing ?

1 *Murd.* We are, my lord ; and come to have
the warrant,

That we may be admitted where he is.

Glo. Well thought upon, I have it here about
me : *[Gives the Warrant.]*

When you have done, repair to Crosby-place.

But, sirs, be sudden in the execution,

Withal obdurate, do not hear him plead ;

For Clarence is well spoken, and, perhaps,

May move your hearts to pity, if you mark him.

1 *Murd.* Tut, tut, my lord, we will not stand to
prate,

Talkers are no good doers ; be assur'd,

We go to use our hands, and not our tongues.

Glo. Your eyes drop mill-stones, when fools' eyes
drop tears :⁹

I like you, lads ;—about your business straight ;

Go, go, despatch.

1 *Murd.* We will, my noble lord.

[Exeunt.]

⁹ *Your eyes drop mill-stones, when fools' eyes drop tears :*
This, I believe, is a proverbial expression. STEEVENS.

SCENE IV.

The same. A Room in the Tower.

Enter CLARENCE and BRAKENBURY.

Brak. Why looks your grace, so heavily ~~to-day~~?

Clar. O, I have pass'd a miserable night,
So full of fearful dreams, of ugly sights,
'That, as I am a christian faithful man,'
I would not spend another such a night,
Though 'twere to buy a world of happy days;
So full of dismal terror was the time.

Brak. What was your dream, my lord? I pray
you, tell me.

Clar. Methought, that I had broken from the
Tower,
And was embark'd to cross to Burgundy;
And, in my company, my brother Gloster:
Who from my cabin tempted me to walk
Upon the hatches; thence we look'd toward Eng-
land,
And cited up a thousand heavy times,
During the wars of York and Lancaster
That had befall'n us. As we pac'd along
Upon the giddy footing of the hatches,
Methought, that Gloster stumbled; and, in falling,
Struck me, that thought to stay him, over-board,
Into the tumbling billows of the main.
O Lord! methought, what pain it was to drown!
What dreadful noise of water in mine ears!
What sights of ugly death within mine eyes!
Methought I saw a thousand fearful wrecks;
A thousand men, that fishes gnaw'd upon;
Wedges of gold, great anchors, heaps of pearl,

' — faithful man,] Not an infidel.

nestimable stones, unvalued jewels,²
 All scatter'd in the bottom of the sea.
 Some lay in dead men's skulls; and, in those holes
 Where eyes did once inhabit, there were crept
 As 'twere in scorn of eyes,) reflecting gems,
 That woo'd the slimy bottom of the deep,
 And mock'd the dead bones that lay scatter'd by.

Brak. Had you such leisure in the time of death,
 To gaze upon these secrets of the deep?

Clar. Methought, I had; and often did I strive
 To yield the ghost: but still the envious flood
 Kept in my soul, and would not let it forth
 To seek the empty, vast, and wand'ring air;
 But smother'd it within my panting bulk,³
 Which almost burst to belch it in the sea.

Brak. Awak'd you not with this sore agony?

Clar. O, no, my dream was lengthen'd after life;
 Then began the tempest to my soul!
 I pass'd, methought, the melancholy flood,
 With that grim ferryman which poets write of,
 Unto the kingdom of perpetual night.
 The first that there did greet my stranger soul,
 Was my great father-in-law, renowned Warwick;
 Who cry'd aloud,—*What scourge for perjury*
Can this dark monarchy afford false Clarence?
 And so he vanish'd: Then came wand'ring by
 A shadow like an angel, with bright hair
 Dabbled in blood; and he shriek'd out aloud,—
Clarence is come,—false, fleeting, perjur'd Clarence,—
That stab'd me in the field by Tewksbury;—
Seize on him, furies, take him to your torments!—
 With that, methought, a legion of foul fiends
 Environ'd me, and howled in mine ears
 Such hideous cries, that, with the very noise,

² — unvalued jewels,] *Unvalued* is here used for *invaluable*

³ — within my panting bulk,] *Bulk* is often used by Shakespeare and his contemporaries for *body*.

I trembling wak'd, and, for a season after,
 Could not believe but that I was in hell;
 Such terrible impression made my dream.

Brak. No marvel, lord, though it affrighted you;
 I am afraid, methinks, to hear you tell it.

Clar. O, Brakenbury, I have done these things,—
 That now give evidence against my soul,—
 For Edward's sake; and, see, how he requites me!—
 O God! if my deep prayers cannot appease thee,
 But thou wilt be aveng'd on my misdeeds,
 Yet execute thy wrath on me alone:
 O, spare my guiltless wife, and my poor children!—
 I pray thee, gentle keeper, stay by me;
 My soul is heavy, and I fain would sleep.

Brak. I will, my lord; God give your grace good
 rest!—

[CLARENCE *reposes himself on a Chair.*
 Sorrow breaks seasons, and reposing hours,
 Makes the night morning, and the noon-tide
 night.

Princes have but their titles for their glories,
 An outward honour for an inward toil;
 And, for unfelt imaginations,
 They often feel a world of restless cares:
 So that, between their titles, and low name,
 There's nothing differs but the outward fame.

Enter the Two Murderers.

1 *Murd.* Ho! who's here?

Brak. What would'st thou, fellow? and how
 cam'st thou hither?

1 *Murd.* I would speak with Clarence, and I came
 hither on my legs.

Brak. What, so brief?

2 *Murd.* O, sir, 'tis better to be brief than te-
 dious:—

Let him see our commission ; talk no more.

[*A Paper is delivered to BRAKENBURY, who reads it.*

Brak. I am, in this, commanded to deliver
The noble duke of Clarence to your hands :—
I will not reason what is meant hereby,
Because I will be guiltless of the meaning.
Here are the keys ;—there sits the duke asleep :
I'll to the king ; and signify to him,
That thus I have resign'd to you my charge.

1 *Murd.* You may, sir ; 'tis a point of wisdom :
Fare you well. [*Exit BRAKENBURY.*

2 *Murd.* What, shall we stab him as he sleeps ?

1 *Murd.* No ; he'll say, 'twas done cowardly, when
he wakes.

2 *Murd.* When he wakes ! why, fool, he shall
never wake until the great judgment day.

1 *Murd.* Why, then he'll say, we stabb'd him
sleeping.

2 *Murd.* The urging of that word, judgment,
hath bred a kind of remorse in me.

1 *Murd.* What ? art thou afraid ?

2 *Murd.* Not to kill him, having a warrant for
it ; but to be damn'd for killing him, from the which
no warrant can defend me.

1 *Murd.* I thought, thou had'st been resolute.

2 *Murd.* So I am, to let him live.

1 *Murd.* I'll back to the duke of Gloster, and tell
him so.

2 *Murd.* Nay, I pr'ythee, stay a little : I hope,
this holy humour of mine will change ; it was wont
to hold me but while one would tell twenty.

1 *Murd.* How dost thou feel thyself now ?

2 *Murd.* 'Fajth, some certain dregs of conscience
are yet within me.

1 *Murd.* Remember our reward, when the deed's
done.

2 *Murd.* Come, he dies ; I had forgot the reward.

1 *Murd.* Where's thy conscience now ?

2 *Murd.* In the duke of Gloster's purse.

1 *Murd.* So, when he opens his purse to give us our reward, thy conscience flies out.

2 *Murd.* 'Tis no matter ; let it go ; there's few, or none, will entertain it.

1 *Murd.* What, if it come to thee again ?

2 *Murd.* I'll not meddle with it, it is a dangerous thing, it makes a man a coward ; a man cannot steal, but it accuseth him ; a man cannot swear, but it checks him ; a man cannot lie with his neighbour's wife, but it detects him : 'Tis a blushing shame-faced spirit, that mutinies in a man's bosom ; it fills one full of obstacles : it made me once restore a purse of gold, that by chance I found ; it beggars any man that keeps it : it is turned out of all towns and cities for a dangerous thing ; and every man, that means to live well, endeavours to trust to himself, and live without it.

1 *Murd.* 'Zounds, it is even now at my elbow, persuading me not to kill the duke.

2 *Murd.* Take the devil in thy mind, and believe him not : he would insinuate with thee, but to make thee sigh.

1 *Murd.* I am strong-fram'd, he cannot prevail with me.

2 *Murd.* Spoke like a tall fellow,⁴ that respects his reputation. Come, shall we fall to work ?

1 *Murd.* Take him over the costard⁵ with the hilts of thy sword, and then throw him into the malmsey-butt, in the next room.

⁴ *Spoke like a tall fellow,*] The meaning of *tall*, in old English, is *stout, daring, fearless, and strong*.

⁵ — *the costard* —] i. e. the head ; a name adopted from an apple shaped like a man's head.

2 *Murd.* O excellent device! and make a sop of him.

1 *Murd.* Soft! he wakes.

2 *Murd.* Strike.

1 *Murd.* No, we'll reason⁶ with him.

Clar. Where art thou, keeper? give me a cup of wine.

1 *Murd.* You shall have wine enough, my lord, anon.

Clar. In God's name, what art thou?

1 *Murd.* A man, as you are.

Clar. But not, as I am, royal.

1 *Murd.* Nor you, as we are, loyal.

Clar. Thy voice is thunder, but thy looks are humble.

1 *Murd.* My voice is now the king's, my looks mine own.

Clar. How darkly, and how deadly dost thou speak!

Your eyes do menace me: Why look you pale?

Who sent you hither? Wherefore do you come?

Both Murd. To, to, to,——

Clar. To murder me?

Both Murd. Ay, ay.

Clar. You scarcely have the hearts to tell me so, And therefore cannot have the hearts to do it.

Wherein, my friends, have I offended you?

1 *Murd.* Offended us you have not, but the king.

Clar. I shall be reconcil'd to him again.

2 *Murd.* Never, my lord; therefore prepare to die.

Clar. Are you call'd forth from out a world of men,

To slay the innocent? What is my offence?

Where is the evidence that doth accuse me?

What lawful quest⁷ have given their verdict up

⁶ —— we'll reason ——] We'll talk.

⁷ What lawful quest ——] Quest is inquest or jury.

Unto the frowning judge? or who pronounc'd
 The bitter sentence of poor Clarence' death?
 Before I be convict by course of law,
 To threaten me with death is most unlawful.
 I charge you, as you hope for any goodness,
 By Christ's dear blood shed for our grievous sins,
 That you depart, and lay no hands on me;
 The deed you undertake is damnable.

1 *Murd.* What we will do, we do upon command.

2 *Murd.* And he, that hath commanded, is our
 king.

Clar. Erroneous vassal! the great King of kings
 Hath in the table of his law commanded,
 That thou shalt do no murder; Wilt thou then
 Spurn at his edict, and fulfil a man's?
 Take heed; for he holds vengeance in his hand,
 To hurl upon their heads that break his law.

2 *Murd.* And that same vengeance doth he hurl
 on thee,

For false forswearing, and for murder too:
 Thou didst receive the sacrament, to fight
 In quarrel of the house of Lancaster.

1 *Murd.* And, like a traitor to the name of God,
 Didst break that vow; and, with thy treacherous
 blade,

Unrip'dst the bowels of thy sovereign's son.

2 *Murd.* Whom thou wast sworn to cherish and
 defend.

1 *Murd.* How canst thou urge God's dreadful law
 to us,

When thou hast broke it in such dear^e degree?

Clar. Alas! for whose sake did I that ill deed?
 For Edward, for my brother, for his sake:
 He sends you not to murder me for this;

* — dear —] This is a word of mere enforcement, and very frequently occurs, with different shades of meaning, in our author.

For in that sin he is as deep as I.
 If God will be avenged for the deed,
 O, know you, that he doth it publickly;
 Take not the quarrel from his powerful arm;
 He needs no indirect nor lawless course,
 To cut off those that have offended him.

1 *Murd.* Who made thee then a bloody minister,
 When gallant-springing, brave Plantagenet,⁹
 That princely novice,¹ was struck dead by thee?

Clar. My brother's love, the devil, and my rage.

1 *Murd.* Thy brother's love, our duty, and thy
 fault,

Provoke us hither now to slaughter thee.

Clar. If you do love my brother, hate not me;
 I am his brother, and I love him well.
 If you are hir'd for meed, go back again,
 And I will send you to my brother Gloster;
 Who shall reward you better for my life,
 Than Edward will for tidings of my death.

2 *Murd.* You are deceiv'd, your brother Gloster
 hates you.

Clar. O, no; he loves me, and he holds me dear:
 Go you to him from me.

Both Murd. Ay, so we will.

Clar. Tell him, when that our princely father
 York

Bless'd his three sons with his victorious arm,
 And charg'd us from his soul to love each other,
 He little thought of this divided friendship:
 Bid Gloster think on this, and he will weep.

1 *Murd.* Ay, mill-stones; as he lesson'd us to weep.

Clar. O, do not slander him, for he is kind.

1 *Murd.* Right, as snow in harvest.—Come, you
 deceive yourself;

⁹ ——— *springing*,—*Plantagenet*,] Blooming Plantagenet; a prince in the *spring* of life.

¹ ——— *novice*,] Youth; one yet new to the world.

"Tis he that sends us to destroy you here.

Clar. It cannot be; for he bewept my fortune,
And hugg'd me in his arms, and swore, with sobs,
That he would labour my delivery.

1 *Murd.* Why, so he doth, when he delivers you
From this earth's thralldom to the joys of heaven.

2 *Murd.* Make peace with God, for you must
die, my lord.

Clar. Hast thou that holy feeling in thy soul,
To counsel me to make my peace with God,
And art thou yet to thy own soul so blind,
That thou wilt war with God, by murdering me?—
Ah, sirs, consider, he, that set you on
To do this deed, will hate you for the deed.

2 *Murd.* What shall we do?

Clar. Relent, and save your souls.

1 *Murd.* Relent! 'tis cowardly, and womanish.

Clar. Not to relent, is beastly, savage, devilish.—
Which of you, if you were a prince's son,
Being pent from liberty, as I am now,—
If two such murderers as yourselves came to you,—
Would not entreat for life?—
My friend, I spy some pity in thy looks;
O, if thine eye be not a flatterer,
Come thou on my side, and entreat for me,
As you would beg, were you in my distress.
A begging prince what beggar pities not?

2 *Murd.* Look behind you, my lord.

1 *Murd.* Take that, and that; if all this will not
do, [Stabs him.
I'll drown you in the malmsey-butt within.

[Exit, with the Body.

2 *Murd.* A bloody deed, and desperately de-
spatch'd!

How fain, like Pilate, would I wash my hands
Of this most grievous guilty murder done!

Re-enter first Murderer.

1 *Murd.* How now? what mean'st thou, that thou help'st me not?

By heaven, the duke shall know how slack you have been.

2 *Murd.* I would he knew, that I had sav'd his brother!

Take thou the fee, and tell him what I say;
For I repent me that the duke is slain, [*Exit.*

1 *Murd.* So do not I; go, coward, as thou art.—
Well, I'll go hide the body in some hole,
Till that the duke give order for his burial:
And when I have my meed, I will away;
For this will out, and then I must not stay. [*Exit.*

ACT II.

SCENE I. The same. A Room in the Palace.

Enter King EDWARD, (led in sick,) Queen ELIZABETH, DORSET, RIVERS, HASTINGS, BUCKINGHAM, GREY, and Others.

K. Edw. Why, so:—now have I done a good day's work;—

You peers, continue this united league:
I every day expect an embassy
From my Redeemer to redeem me hence;
And more in peace my soul shall part to heaven,
Since I have made my friends at peace on earth.
Rivers, and Hastings, take each other's hand;
Dissemble not your hatred,² swear your love.

² *Dissemble not your hatred,*] i. e. do not gloss it over.

Riv. By heaven, my soul is purg'd from grudging
hate;

And with my hand I seal my true heart's love.

Hast. So thrive I, as I truly swear the like!

K. Edw. Take heed, you dally not before your
king;

Lest he, that is the supreme King of kings,
Confound your hidden falsehood, and award
Either of you to be the other's end.

Hast. So prosper I, as I swear perfect love!

Riv. And I, as I love Hastings with my heart!

K. Edw. Madam, yourself are not exempt in
this,—

Nor your son Dorset,—Buckingham, nor you;—

You have been factious one against the other.

Wife, love lord Hastings, let him kiss your hand;

And what you do, do it unfeignedly.

Q. Eliz. There, Hastings;—I will never more
remember

Our former hatred, so thrive I, and mine!

K. Edw. Dorset, embrace him,—Hastings, love
lord marquis.

Dor. This interchange of love, I here protest,
Upon my part shall be inviolable.

Hast. And so swear I. [*Embraces DORSET.*]

K. Edw. Now, princely Buckingham, seal thou
this league

With thy embracements to my wife's allies,

And make me happy in your unity.

Buck. Whenever Buckingham doth turn his hate
Upon your grace, [*To the Queen.*] but with all de-
teous love

Doth cherish you, and yours, God punish me

With hate in those where I expect most love!

When I have most need to employ a friend,

And most assured that he is a friend,

Deep, hollow, treacherous, and full of guile,

Be he unto me! this do I beg of heaven,
When I am cold in love, to you, or yours.

[*Embracing RIVERS, &c.*

K. Edw. A pleasing cordial, princely Buckingham,
Is this thy vow unto my sickly heart.

There wanteth now our brother Gloster here,
To make the blessed period of this peace.

Buck. And, in good time, here comes the noble
duke.

Enter GLOSTER.

Glo. Good morrow to my sovereign king, and
queen ;

And, princely peers, a happy time of day !

K. Edw. Happy, indeed, as we have spent the
day :—

Brother, we have done deeds of charity ;
Made peace of enmity, fair love of hate,
Between these swelling wrong-incensed peers.

Glo. A blessed labour, my most sovereign liege.—

Among this princely heap, if any here,
By false intelligence, or wrong surmise,
Hold me a foe ;

If I unwittingly, or in my rage,
Have aught committed that is hardly borne
By any in this presence, I desire
To reconcile me to his friendly peace :

'Tis death to me, to be at enmity ;
I hate it, and desire all good men's love.—

First, madam, I entreat true peace of you,
Which I will purchase with my duteous service ;—

Of you, my noble cousin Buckingham,
If ever any grudge were lodg'd between us ;—

Of you, lord Rivers,—and lord Grey, of you,—
That all without desert have frown'd on me ;—

Dukes, earls, lords, gentlemen ; indeed, of all.
I do not know that Englishman alive,

With whom my soul is any jot at odds,
More than the infant that is born to-night?
I thank my God for my humility.

Q. Eliz. A holy-day shall this be kept hereafter :—
I would to God, all strifes were well compounded.—
My sovereign lord, I do beseech your highness
To take our brother Clarence to your grace.

Glo. Why, madam, have I offer'd love for this,
To be so flouted in this royal presence?
Who knows not, that the gentle duke is dead?

[*They all start.*]

You do him injury, to scorn his corse.

K. Edw. Who knows not, he is dead! who knows
he is?

Q. Eliz. All-seeing heaven, what a world is this!

Buck. Look I so pale, lord Dorset, as the rest?

Dor. Ay, my good lord? and no man in the pre-
sence,

But his red colour hath forsook his cheeks.

K. Edw. Is Clarence dead? the order was re-
vers'd.

Glo. But he, poor man, by your first order died,
And that a winged Mercury did bear;
Some tardy cripple bore the countermand,
That came too lag to see him buried :—
God grant, that some, less noble, and less loyal,
Nearer in bloody thoughts, and not in blood,
Deserve not worse than wretched Clarence did,
And yet go current from suspicion!

Enter STANLEY.

Stan. A boon, my sovereign, for my service done!

K. Edw. I pr'ythee, peace; my soul is full of
sorrow.

Stan. I will not rise, unless your highness hear me.

K. Edw. Then say at once, what is it thou re-
quest'st.

Stan. The forfeit,³ sovereign, of my servant's life;
Who slew to-day a riotous gentleman,
Lately attendant on the duke of Norfolk.

K. Edw. Have I a tongue to doom my brother's death,⁴
And shall that tongue give pardon to a slave?
My brother kill'd no man, his fault was thought,
And yet his punishment was bitter death.
Who sued to me for him? who, in my wrath,
Kneel'd at my feet, and bade me be advis'd?
Who spoke of brotherhood? who spoke of love?
Who told me, how the poor soul did forsake
The mighty Warwick, and did fight for me?
Who told me in the field at Tewksbury,
When Oxford had me down, he rescu'd me,
And said, *Dear brother, live, and be a king?*
Who told me, when we both lay in the field,
Frozen almost to death, how he did lap me
Even in his garments; and did give himself,
All thin and naked, to the numb-cold night?
All this from my remembrance brutish wrath
Sinfully pluck'd, and not a man of you
Had so much grace to put it in my mind.
But, when your carters, or your waiting-vassals,
Have done a drunken slaughter, and defac'd
The precious image of our dear Redeemer,
You straight are on your knees for pardon, pardon;
And I, unjustly too, must grant it you:—
But for my brother, not a man would speak,—
Nor I (ungracious) speak unto myself
For him, poor soul.—The proudest of you all
Have been beholden to him in his life;
Yet none of you would once plead for his life.—

³ *The forfeit,*] He means the *remission* of the forfeit.

⁴ *Have I a tongue to doom my brother's death,*] This lamentation is very tender and pathetick. The recollection of the good qualities of the dead is very natural, and no less naturally does the King endeavour to communicate the crime to others.

O God! I fear, thy justice will take hold
 On me, and you, and mine, and yours, for this.—
 Come, Hastings, help me to my closet. O,
 Poor Clarence!

[*Exeunt* King, Queen, HASTINGS, RIVERS,
 DORSET, and GREY.

Glo. This is the fruit of rashness!—Mark'd you
 not,

How that the guilty kindred of the queen
 Look'd pale, when they did hear of Clarence' death?
 O! they did urge it still unto the king:
 God will revenge it. Come, lords; will you go,
 To comfort Edward with our company?

Buck. We wait upon your grace. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.

The same.

*Enter the Duchess of York, with a Son and
 Daughter of Clarence.*

Son. Good grandam, tell us, is our father dead?

Duch. No, boy.

Daugh. Why do you weep so oft? and beat your
 breast;

And cry—O *Clarence, my unhappy son!*

Son. Why do you look on us, and shake your head,
 And call us—orphans, wretches, cast-aways,
 If that our noble father be alive?

Duch. My pretty cousins,^s you mistake me both;
 I do lament the sickness of the king,

^s — *my pretty cousins,*] The Duchess is here addressing her grand-children, but *cousin* was the term used in Shakespeare's time, by uncles to nephews and nieces, grandfathers to grandchildren, &c. It seems to have been used instead of our *kinsman*, and *kinswoman*, and to have supplied the place of both.

As loath to lose him, not your father's death ;
It were lost sorrow, to wail one that's lost.

Son. Then, grandam, you conclude that he is dead.
The king my uncle is to blame for this :
God will revenge it ; whom I will impórtune
With earnest prayers all to that effect.

Daugh. And so will I.

Duch. Peace, children, peace ! the king doth
love you well :

Incapable and shallow innocents,*
You cannot guess who caus'd your father's death.

Son. Grandam, we can : for my good uncle Gloster
Told me, the king, provok'd to't by the queen,
Devis'd impeachments to imprison him :
And when my uncle told me so, he wept,
And pitied me, and kindly kiss'd my cheek ;
Bade me rely on him, as on my father,
And he would love me dearly as his child.

Duch. Ah, that deceit should steal such gentle
shapes,
And with a virtuous visor hide deep vice !
He is my son, ay, and therein my shame,
Yet from my dugs he drew not this deceit.

Son. Think you, my uncle did dissemble, grandam ?

Duch. Ay, boy.

Son. I cannot think it. Hark ! what noise is this ?

*Enter Queen ELIZABETH, distractedly ; RIVERS,
and DORSET following her.*

Q. Eliz. Ah ! whoshall hinder me to wail and weep ?
To chide my fortune, and torment myself ?
I'll join with black despair against my soul,
And to myself become an enemy.

Duch. What means this scene of rude impatience ?

Q. Eliz. To make an act of tragick violence :—

* Incapable and shallow innocents,] Incapable is unintelligent.

Forward, my lord, thy son, our king, is dead.—
 Why grow the branches, when the root is gone?
 Why wither not the leaves, that want their sap?—
 As you will live, lament; if die, be brief;
 That our swift-winged souls may catch the king's;
 Or, like obedient subjects, follow him
 To his new kingdom of perpetual rest.

Duch. Ah, so much interest have I in thy sorrow,
 If I had title in thy noble husband!
 I have bewept a worthy husband's death,
 And liv'd by looking on his images :⁷
 But now, two mirrors of his princely semblance
 Are crack'd in pieces by malignant death;
 And I for comfort have but one false glass,
 That grieves me when I see my shame in him.
 Thou art a widow; yet thou art a mother,
 And hast the comfort of thy children left thee:
 But death hath snatch'd my husband from my arms,
 And pluck'd two crutches from my feeble hands,
 Clarence and Edward. O, what cause have I,
 (Thine being but a moiety of my grief,)
 To over-go thy plaints, and drown thy cries?

Son. Ah, aunt! you wept not for our father's death;
 How can we aid you with our kindred tears?

Daugh. Our fatherless distress was left unmoan'd,
 Your widow-dolour likewise be unwept!

Q. Eliz. Give me no help in lamentation,
 I am not barren to bring forth laments:
 All springs reduce their currents to mine eyes,
 That I, being govern'd by the watry moon,
 May send forth plenteous tears to drown the world!
 Ah, for my husband, for my dear lord Edward!

Chil. Ah, for our father, for our dear lord Clarence.

Duch. Alas, for both, both mine, Edward and
 Clarence!

⁷ — his images :] The children by whom he was represented.

Q. Eliz. What stay had I, but Edward? and he's
gone.

Chil. What stay had we, but Clarence? and he's
gone.

Duch. What stays had I, but they? and they are
gone.

Q. Eliz. Was never widow, had so dear a loss.

Chil. Were never orphans, had so dear a loss.

Duch. Was never mother, had so dear a loss.

Alas! I am the mother of these griefs;
Their woes are parcell'd, mine are general.
She for an Edward weeps, and so do I;
I for a Clarence weep, so doth not she:
These babes for Clarence weep, and so do I:
I for an Edward weep, so do not they:—
Alas! you three, on me, threefold distress'd,
Pour all your tears, I am your sorrow's nurse,
And I will pamper it with lamentations.

Dor. Comfort, dear mother: God is much dis-
pleas'd,
That you take with unthankfulness his doing;
In common worldly things, 'tis call'd—ungrateful,
With dull unwillingness to repay a debt,
Which with a bounteous hand was kindly lent;
Much more to be thus opposite with heaven,
For it requires^e the royal debt it lent you.

Riv. Madam, bethink you, like a careful mother,
Of the young prince your son: send straight for him.
Let him be crown'd; in him your comfort lives:
Drown desperate sorrow in dead Edward's grave,
And plant your joys in living Edward's throne.

Enter GLOSTER, BUCKINGHAM, STANLEY, HAST-
INGS, RATCLIFFE, and Others.

Glo. Sister, have comfort: all of us have cause

^e For it requires —] i. e. because.

To wail the dimming of our shining star ;
 But none can cure their harms by wailing them.—
 Madam, my mother, I do cry you mercy,
 I did not see your grace :—Humbly on my knee
 I crave your blessing.

Duch. God bless thee ; and put meekness in thy
 breast,

Love, charity, obedience, and true duty !

Glo. Amen ; and make me die a good old man !—
 That is the butt-end of a mother's blessing ;
 I marvel, that her grace did leave it out. [*Aside.*]

Buck. You cloudy princes, and heart-sorrowing
 peers,

That bear this mutual heavy load of moan,
 Now cheer each other in each other's love :
 Though we have spent our harvest of this king,
 We are to reap the harvest of his son.
 The broken rancour of your high sworn hearts,
 But lately splinted, knit, and join'd together,
 Must gently be preserv'd, cherish'd, and kept :
 Me seemeth good, that, with some little train,
 Forthwith from Ludlow the young prince be fetch'd
 Hither to London, to be crown'd our king.

Riv. Why with some little train, my lord of
 Buckingham ?

Buck. Marry, my lord, lest by a multitude,
 The new-heal'd wound of malice should break out ;
 Which would be so much the more dangerous,
 By how much the estate is green, and yet ungovern'd :
 Where every horse bears his commanding rein,
 And may direct his course, as please himself,
 As well the fear of harm, as harm apparent,
 In my opinion, ought to be prevented.

Glo. I hope, the king made peace with all of us ;
 And the compact is firm, and true, in me.

Riv. And so in me ; and so, I think, in all :
 Yet, since it is but green, it should be put

To no apparent likelihood of breach,
Which, haply, by much company might he urg'd :
Therefore I say, with noble Buckingham,
That it is meet so few should fetch the prince.

Hast. And so say I.

Glo. Then be it so ; and go we to determine
Who they shall be that straight shall post to Ludlow.
Madam,—and you my mother,—will you go
To give your censures⁹ in this weighty business ?

[*Exeunt all but BUCKINGHAM and GLOSTER.*

Buck. My lord, whoever journeys to the prince,
For God's sake, let not us two stay at home :

For, by the way, I'll sort occasion,
As index to the story¹ we late talk'd of,
To part the queen's proud kindred from the prince.

Glo. My other self, my counsel's consistory,
My oracle, my prophet !—My dear cousin,
I, as a child, will go by thy direction.
Towards Ludlow then, for we'll not stay behind.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.

The same. A Street.

Enter Two Citizens, meeting.

1 *Cit.* Good morrow, neighbour : Whither away
so fast ?

2 *Cit.* I promise you, I scarcely know myself ;
Hear you the news abroad ?

1 *Cit.* Yes ; the king's dead.

2 *Cit.* Ill news, by'r lady ; seldom comes the better :
I fear, I fear, 'twill prove a giddy world.

⁹ — your censures —] To *censure* formerly meant to deliver
an opinion.

¹ As index to the story —] i. e. preparatory—by way of prelude.

Enter another Citizen.

3 *Cit.* Neighbours, God speed!

1 *Cit.* Give you good morrow, sir.

3 *Cit.* Doth the news hold of good king Edward's death?

2 *Cit.* Ay, sir, it is too true; God help, the while!

3 *Cit.* Then, masters, look to see a troublous world.

1 *Cit.* No, no; by God's good grace, his son shall reign.

3 *Cit.* Woe to that land, that's govern'd by a child!

2 *Cit.* In him there is a hope of government;
That, in his nonage, council under him,
And, in his full and ripen'd years, himself,
No doubt, shall then, and till then, govern well.

1 *Cit.* So stood the state, when Henry the sixth
Was crown'd in Paris but at nine months old.

3 *Cit.* Stood the state so? no, no, good friends,
God wot;

For then this land was famously enrich'd
With politick grave counsel; then the king
Had virtuous uncles to protect his grace.

1 *Cit.* Why, so hath this, both by his father and
mother.

3 *Cit.* Better it were, they all came by his father;
Or, by his father, there were none at all:

For emulation now, who shall be nearest,
Will touch us all too near, if God prevent not.

O, full of danger is the duke of Gloster;
And the queen's sons, and brothers, haught and
proud:

And were they to be rul'd, and not to rule,
This sickly land might solace as before.

1 *Cit.* Come, come, we fear the worst; all will
be well.

3 Cit. When clouds are seen, wise men put on
their cloaks ;

When great leaves fall, then winter is at hand ;
When the sun sets, who doth not look for night ?
Untimely storms make men expect a dearth :
All may be well ; but, if God sort it so,
'Tis more than we deserve, or I expect.

2 Cit. Truly, the hearts of men are full of fear :
You cannot reason almost² with a man
That looks not heavily, and full of dread.

3 Cit. Before the days of change, still is it so :
By a divine instinct, men's minds mistrust
Ensuing danger ; as, by proof, we see
The water swell before a boist'rous storm.
But leave it all to God. Whither away ?

2 Cit. Marry, we were sent for to the justices.

3 Cit. And so was I ; I'll bear you company.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

The same. A Room in the Palace.

*Enter the Archbishop of York, the young Duke of
York, Queen ELIZABETH, and the Duchess of
York.*

Arch. Last night, I heard, they lay at Stony-
Stratford ;

And at Northampton they do rest to-night :
To-morrow, or next day, they will be here.

Duch. I long with all my heart to see the prince ;
I hope, he is much grown since last I saw him.

Q. Eliz. But I hear, no ; they say, my son of York
Hath almost over-ta'en him in his growth.

York. Ay, mother, but I would not have it so.

² You cannot reason almost —] To reason is to converse.

Duch. Why, my young cousin, it is good to grow.

York. Grandam, one night, as we did sit at supper,
My uncle Rivers talk'd how I did grow

More than my brother ; *Ay*, quoth my uncle Gloster,
Small herbs have grace, great weeds do grow apace :
And since, methinks, I would not grow so fast,
Because sweet flowers are slow, and weeds make haste.

Duch. 'Good faith, 'good faith, the saying did
not hold

In him that did object the same to thee :

He was the wretched'st thing, when he was young,
So long a growing, and so leisurely,
That, if his rule were true, he should be gracious.

Arch. And so, no doubt, he is, my gracious madam.

Duch. I hope, he is ; but yet let mothers doubt.

York. Now, by my troth, if I had been remem-
ber'd,³

I could have given my uncle's grace a flout,
To touch his growth, nearer than he touch'd mine.

Duch. How, my young York ? I pr'ythee, let me
hear it.

York. Marry, they say, my uncle grew so fast,
That he could gnaw a crust at two hours old ;
'Twas full two years ere I could get a tooth.

Grandam, this would have been a biting jest.

Duch. I pr'ythee, pretty York, who told thee this ?

York. Grandam, his nurse.

Duch. His nurse ! why, she was dead ere thou
wast born.

York. If'twere not she, I cannot tell who told me.

Q. Eliz. A parlous boy :⁴ Go to, you are too
shrewd.

Arch. Good madam, be not angry with the child.

Q. Eliz. Pitchers have ears.

³ — *been remember'd,*] *To be remember'd* is, in Shakspeare,
to have one's memory quick, to have one's thoughts about one.

⁴ *A parlous boy :*] *Parlous* is keen, shrewd.

Enter a Messenger.

Arch. Here comes a messenger :
What news ?

Mess. Such news, my lord,
As grieves me to unfold.

Q. Eliz. How doth the prince ?

Mess. Well, madam, and in health.

Duch. What is thy news ?

Mess. Lord Rivers, and lord Grey, are sent to
Pomfret,

With them sir Thomas Vaughan, prisoners.

Duch. Who hath committed them ?

Mess. The mighty dukes,
Gloster and Buckingham.

Q. Eliz. For what offence ?

Mess. The sum of all I can, I have disclos'd ;
Why, or for what, the nobles were committed,
Is all unknown to me, my gracious lady.

Q. Eliz. Ah me, I see the ruin of my house !
The tiger now hath seiz'd the gentle hind ;
Insulting tyranny begins to jut
Upon the innocent and awless⁴ throne :—
Welcome, destruction, blood, and massacre !
I see, as in a map, the end of all.

Duch. Accursed and unquiet wrangling days !
How many of you have mine eyes beheld ?
My husband lost his life to get the crown ;
And often up and down my sons were tost,
For me to joy, and weep, their gain, and loss :
And being seated, and domestick broils
Clean over-blown, themselves, the conquerors,
Make war upon themselves ; brother to brother,
Blood to blood, self 'gainst self :—O, preposterous

⁴ — awless —] Not producing awe, nor revered. To
jut upon is to encroach.

And frantick courage, end thy damned spleen :
Or let me die, to look on death no more !

Q. Eliz. Come, come, my boy, we will to sanctuary.—

Madam, farewell.

Duch. Stay, I will go with you.

Q. Eliz. You have no cause.

Arch. My gracious lady, go,
[*To the Queen.*]

And thither bear your treasure and your goods.

For my part, I'll resign unto your grace

The seal I keep ; And so betide to me,

As well I tender you, and all of yours !

Come, I'll conduct you to the sanctuary. [*Exeunt.*]

ACT III.

SCENE I. *The same. A Street.*

*The Trumpets sound. Enter the Prince of Wales;
GLOSTER, BUCKINGHAM, Cardinal BOURCHIER,
and Others.*

Buck. Welcome, sweet prince, to London, to your chamber.⁵

Glo. Welcome, dear cousin, my thoughts' sovereign :

The weary way hath made you melancholy.

Prince. No, uncle ; but our crosses on the way
Have made it tedious, wearisome, and heavy :
I want more uncles here to welcome me.

Glo. Sweet prince, the untainted virtue of your years

⁵ ——— *to your chamber.*] London was anciently called *Camera regis*. This title it began to have immediately after the Norman conquest.

Hath not yet div'd into the world's deceit :
No more can you distinguish of a man,
Than of his outward show ; which, God he knows,
Seldom, or never, jumpeth with the heart.
Those uncles, which you want, were dangerous ;
Your grace attended to the sugar'd words,
But look'd not on the poison of their hearts :
God keep you from them, and from such false friends !

Prince. God keep me from false friends ! but they
were none.

Glo. My lord, the mayor of London comes to
greet you.

Enter the Lord Mayor, and his Train.

May. God bless your grace with health and happy
days !

Prince. I thank you, good my lord ;—and thank
you all.—

[*Ereunt Mayor, &c.*

I thought my mother, and my brother York,
Would long ere this have met us on the way :
Fye, what a slug is Hastings ! that he comes not
To tell us, whether they will come, or no.

Enter HASTINGS.

Buck. And in good time, here comes the sweating
lord.

Prince. Welcome, my lord : What, will our mo-
ther come ?

Hast. On what occasion, God he knows, not I,
The queen your mother, and your brother York,
Have taken sanctuary : The tender prince
Would fain have come with me to meet your grace,
But by his mother was perforce withheld.

Buck. Fye ! what an indirect and peevish course
Is this of hers ?—Lord cardinal, will your grace
Persuade the queen to send the duke of York

Unto his princely brother presently?
 If she deny,—lord Hastings, go with him,
 And from her jealous arms pluck him perforce.

Card. My lord of Buckingham, if my weak oratory
 Can from his mother win the duke of York,
 Anon expect him here: But if she be obdurate
 To mild entreaties, God in heaven forbid
 We should infringe the holy privilege
 Of blessed sanctuary! not for all this land,
 Would I be guilty of so deep a sin.

Buck. You are too senseless-obstinate, my lord,
 Too ceremonious, and traditional:⁶
 Weigh it but with the grossness of this age,⁷
 You break not sanctuary in seizing him.
 The benefit thereof is always granted
 To those whose dealings have deserv'd the place,
 And those who have the wit to claim the place:
 This prince hath neither claim'd it, nor deserv'd it;
 And therefore, in mine opinion, cannot have it:
 Then, taking him from thence, that is not there,
 You break no privilege nor charter there.
 Oft have I heard of sanctuary men;
 But sanctuary children, ne'er till now.

Card. My lord, you shall o'er-rule my mind for
 once.—

Come on, lord Hastings, will you go with me?

Hast. I go, my lord.

Prince. Good lords, make all the speedy haste
 you may.

[*Exeunt Cardinal and Hastings.*
 Say, uncle Gloster, if our brother come,

⁶ Too ceremonious, and traditional:] Ceremonious for superstitious; traditional for adherent to old customs.

⁷ Weigh it but with the grossness of this age,] That is, compare the act of seizing him with the gross and licentious practices of these times, it will not be considered as a violation of sanctuary, for you may give such reasons as men are now used to admit.

Where shall we sojourn till our coronation?

Glo. Where it seems best unto your royal self.

If I may counsel you, some day, or two,

Your highness shall repose you at the Tower:

Then where you please, and shall be thought most fit
For your best health and recreation.

Prince. I do not like the Tower, of any place:—
Did Julius Cæsar build that place, my lord?

Glo. He did, my gracious lord, begin that place;
Which, since, succeeding ages have re-edified.

Prince. Is it upon record? or else reported
Successively from age to age he built it?

Buck. Upon record, my gracious lord.

Prince. But say, my lord, it were not register'd;
Methinks, the truth should live from age to age,
As 'twere retail'd to all posterity,⁸
Even to the general all-ending day.

Glo. So wise so young, they say, do ne'er live
long. *[Aside.]*

Prince. What say you, uncle?

Glo. I say, without charácters, fame lives long.
Thus, like the formal vice, Iniquity, } *Aside.*
I moralize two meanings in one word.⁹

Prince. That Julius Cæsar was a famous man;
With what his valour did enrich his wit,
His wit set down to make his valour live:
Death makes no conquest of this conqueror;

⁸ *As 'twere retail'd to all posterity,]* *Retailed* means handed down from one to another.

⁹ *Thus, like the formal vice, Iniquity,*

I moralize two meanings in one word.] The *Vice* of the old moralities was a buffoon character, whose chief employment was to make the audience laugh, and one of the modes by which he effected his purpose was by double meanings, or playing upon words. In these moral representations, *Fraud*, *INIQUITY*, *Covetousness*, *Luxury*, *Gluttony*, *Vanity*, &c. were frequently introduced. The *formal Vice* perhaps means, the *shrewd*, the *sensible* Vice.

For now he lives in fame, though not in life.—
I'll tell you what, my cousin Buckingham.

Buck. What, my gracious lord?

Prince. An if I live until I be a man,
I'll win our ancient right in France again,
Or die a soldier, as I liv'd a king.

Glo. Short summers lightly¹ have a forward spring.
[*Aside.*]

Enter YORK, HASTINGS, and the Cardinal.

Buck. Now, in good time, here comes the duke
of York.

Prince. Richard of York! how fares our loving
brother?

York. Well, my dread lord;² so must I call you
now.

Prince. Ay, brother; to our grief, as it is yours:
Too late he died,³ that might have kept that title,
Which by his death hath lost much majesty.

Glo. How fares our cousin, noble lord of York?

York. I thank you, gentle uncle. O, my lord,
You said, that idle weeds are fast in growth:
The prince my brother hath outgrown me far.

Glo. He hath, my lord.

York. And therefore is he idle?

Glo. O, my fair cousin, I must not say so.

York. Then is he more beholden to you, than I.

Glo. He may command me, as my sovereign;
But you have power in me, as in a kinsman.

York. I pray you, uncle, then, give me this dagger.

Glo. My dagger, little cousin? with all my heart.

¹ — lightly —] Commonly, in ordinary course.

² — dread lord;] The original of this epithet applied to kings
has been much disputed. In some of our old statutes the king is
called *Rex metuendissimus*. JOHNSON.

³ Too late he died,] i. e. too lately, the loss is too fresh in our
memory.

Prince. A beggar, brother?

York. Of my kind uncle, that I know will give ;
And, being but a toy, which is no grief to give.

Glo. A greater gift than that I'll give my cousin.

York. A greater gift! O, that's the sword to it?

Glo. Ay, gentle cousin, were it light enough.

York. O then, I see, you'll part but with light gifts;
In weightier things you'll say a beggar, nay.

Glo. It is too weighty for your grace to wear.

York. I weigh it lightly,⁴ were it heavier.

Glo. What, would you have my weapon, little
lord?

York. I would, that I might thank you as you
call me.

Glo. How?

York. Little.

Prince. My lord of York will still be cross in
talk;—

Uncle, your grace knows how to bear with him.

York. You mean, to bear me, not to bear with
me:—

Uncle, my brother mocks both you and me;

Because that I am little, like an ape,

He thinks that you should bear me on your shoulders.

Buck. With what a sharp-provided wit he reasons!

To mitigate the scorn he gives his uncle,

He prettily and aptly taunts himself:

So cunning, and so young, is wonderful.

Glo. My gracious lord, will't please you pass along?

Myself, and my good cousin Buckingham,

Will to your mother; to entreat of her,

To meet you at the Tower, and welcome you.

York. What, will you go unto the Tower, my
lord?

⁴ *I weigh it lightly, &c.*] i. e. I should still esteem it but a trifling gift, were it heavier, or perhaps, I'd weigh it lightly,—
i. e. I could manage it, though it were heavier.

Prince. My lord protector needs will have it so.

York. I shall not sleep in quiet at the Tower.

Glo. Why, sir, what should you fear?

York. Marry, my uncle Clarence' angry ghost;
My grandam told me, he was murder'd there.

Prince. I fear no uncles dead.

Glo. Nor none that live, I hope.

Prince. An if they live, I hope, I need not fear.
But come, my lord, and, with a heavy heart,
Thinking on them, go I unto the Tower.

[*Exeunt Prince, YORK, HASTINGS, Cardinal,
and Attendants.*]

Buck. Think you, my lord, this little prating York
Was not incensed⁵ by his subtle mother,
To taunt and scorn you thus opprobriously?

Glo. No doubt, no doubt: O, 'tis a parlous boy;
Bold, quick, ingenious, forward, capable;⁶
He's all the mother's, from the top to toe.

Buck. Well, let them rest.—

Come hither, gentle Catesby; thou art sworn
As deeply to effect what we intend,
As closely to conceal what we impart:
Thou know'st our reasons urg'd upon the way;—
What think'st thou? is it not an easy matter
To make William lord Hastings of our mind,
For the instalment of this noble duke
In the seat royal of this famous isle?

Cate. He for his father's sake so loves the prince,
That he will not be won to aught against him.

Buck. What think'st thou then of Stanley? will
not he?

Cate. He will do all in all as Hastings doth.

Buck. Well then, no more but this: Go, gentle
Catesby,

⁵ *Was not incensed*] i. e. *incited* or *suggested*.

⁶ — *capable*;) here, as in many other places in these plays,
means intelligent, quick of apprehension.

And, as it were far off, sound thou lord Hastings,
How he doth stand affected to our purpose ;
And summon him to-morrow to the Tower,
To sit about the coronation.

If thou dost find him tractable to us,
Encourage him, and tell him all our reasons :
If he be leaden, icy, cold, unwilling,
Be thou so too ; and so break off the talk,
And give us notice of his inclination :
For we to-morrow hold divided councils,⁷
Wherein thyself shalt highly be employ'd.

Glo. Commend me to lord William : tell him,
Catesby,

His ancient knot of dangerous adversaries
To-morrow are let blood at Pomfret-castle ;
And bid my friend, for joy of this good news,
Give mistress Shore one gentle kiss the more.

Buck. Good Catesby, go, effect this business
soundly.

Cate. My good lords both, with all the heed I can.

Glo. Shall we hear from you, Catesby, ere we
sleep ?

Cate. You shall, my lord.

Glo. At Crosby-place, there shall you find us
both. [Exit CATESBY.]

Buck. Now, my lord, what shall we do, if we
perceive

Lord Hastings will not yield to our complots ?

Glo. Chop off his head, man ;—somewhat we
will do :—

And, look, when I am king, claim thou of me
The earldom of Hereford, and all the moveables
Whereof the king my brother was possess'd.

Buck. I'll claim that promise at your grace's hand.

Glo. And look to have it yielded with all kindness.

⁷ — divided councils,] That is, a private consultation, separate from the known and publick council.

Come, let us sup betimes; that afterwards
We may digest our complots in some form.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

Before Lord Hastings' House.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. My lord, my lord,— [Knocking.]

Hast. [*Within.*] Who knocks?

Mess. One from lord Stanley.

Hast. [*Within.*] What is't o'clock?

Mess. Upon the stroke of four.

Enter HASTINGS.

Hast. Cannot thy master sleep the tedious nights?

Mess. So it should seem by that I have to say.
First, he commends him to your noble lordship.

Hast. And then,—

Mess. And then he sends you word, he dreamt
To-night the boar had rased off his helm :^a
Besides, he says, there are two councils held ;
And that may be determin'd at the one,
Which may make you and him to rue at the other.
Therefore he sends to know your lordship's pleasure,—

If, presently, you will take horse with him,
And with all speed post with him toward the north,
To shun the danger that his soul divines.

Hast. Go, fellow, go, return unto thy lord ;
Bid him not fear the separated councils :

^a — the boar had rased off his helm :] By the boar, throughout this scene, is meant Gloster, who was called the boar, or the hog, from his having a boar for his cognizance, and one of the supporters of his coat of arms. STEEVENS.

His honour,⁹ and myself, are at the one ;
 And at the other, is my good friend Catesby ;
 Where nothing can proceed, that toucheth us,
 Whereof I shall not have intelligence.
 Tell him, his fears are shallow, wanting instance :
 And for his dreams—I wonder, he's so fond
 To trust the mockery of unquiet slumbers :
 To fly the boar, before the boar pursues,
 Were to incense the boar to follow us,
 And make pursuit, where he did mean no chase.
 So, bid thy master rise and come to me ;
 And we will both together to the Tower,
 Where, he shall see, the boar will use us kindly.

Mess. I'll go, my lord, and tell him what you
 say. [Exit.

Enter CATESBY.

Cate. Many good morrows to my noble lord !

Hast. Good morrow, Catesby ; you are early
 stirring :

What news, what news, in this our tottering state ?

Cate. It is a reeling world, indeed, my lord ;
 And, I believe, will never stand upright,
 Till Richard wear the garland of the realm.

Hast. How ! wear the garland ? dost thou mean
 the crown ?

Cate. Ay, my good lord.

Hast. I'll have this crown of mine cut from my
 shoulders,
 Before I'll see the crown so foul misplac'd.
 But canst thou guess that he doth aim at it ?

⁹ *His honour,*] This was the usual address to noblemen in
 Shakspeare's time.

^{*} — *wanting instance :*] That is, *wanting some example or
 act of malevolence*, by which they may be justified : or which,
 perhaps, is nearer to the true meaning, wanting any *immediate*
 ground or reason. JOHNSON.

Cate. Ay, on my life ; and hopes to find you forward

Upon his party, for the gain thereof :
And, thereupon, he sends you this good news,—
That, this same very day, your enemies,
The kindred of the queen, must die at Pomfret.

Hast. Indeed, I am no mourner for that news,
Because they have been still my adversaries :
But, that I'll give my voice on Richard's side,
To bar my master's heirs in true descent,
God knows, I will not do it, to the death.

Cate. God keep your lordship in that gracious mind !

Hast. But I shall laugh at this a twelve-month hence,—

That they, who brought me in my master's hate,
I live to look upon their tragedy.

Well, Catesby, ere a fortnight make me older,
I'll send some packing, that yet think not on't.

Cate. 'Tis a vile thing to die, my gracious lord,
When men are unprepar'd, and look not for it.

Hast. O monstrous, monstrous ! and so falls it out
With Rivers, Vaughan, Grey : and so 'twill do
With some men else, who think themselves as safe
As thou, and I ; who, as thou know'st, are dear
To princely Richard, and to Buckingham.

Cate. The princes both make high account of you,—

For they account his head upon the bridge. [*Aside.*

Hast. I know, they do ; and I have well deserv'd it.

Enter STANLEY.

Come on, come on, where is your boar-spear, man ?
Fear you the boar, and go so unprovided ?

Stan. My lord, good morrow ; and good morrow,
Catesby :—

You may jest on, but, by the holy rood,¹
I do not like these several councils, I.

Hast. My lord, I hold my life as dear as yours;
And never, in my life, I do protest,
Was it more precious to me than 'tis now:
Think you, but that I know our state secure,
I would be so triumphant as I am.

Stan. The lords at Pomfret, when they rode from
London,

Were jocund, and suppos'd their states were sure,
And they, indeed, had no cause to mistrust;
But yet, you see, how soon the day o'er-cast.
This sudden stab of rancour I misdoubt;²
Pray God, I say, I prove a needless coward!
What, shall we toward the Tower? the day is spent.

Hast. Come, come, have with you.—Wot you
what, my lord?

To-day, the lords you talk of are beheaded.

Stan. They, for their truth,³ might better wear
their heads,
Than some, that have accus'd them, wear their hats.
But come, my lord, let's away.

Enter a Pursuivant.

Hast. Go on before, I'll talk with this good
fellow. [*Exeunt STAN. and CATESBY.*

How now, sirrah? how goes the world with thee?

Purs. The better, that your lordship please to ask.

Hast. I tell thee, man, 'tis better with me now,
Than when thou met'st me last where now we meet:
Then was I going prisoner to the Tower,
By the suggestion of the queen's allies;
But now, I tell thee, (keep it to thyself,)

¹ — the holy rood,] i. e. the cross.

² — I misdoubt;] i. e. suspect it of danger.

³ They, for their truth,] That is, with respect to their honesty.

This day those enemies are put to death,
And I in better state than ere I was.

Purs. God hold it, to your honour's good content!

Hast. Gramercy, fellow: There, drink that for me. *[Throwing him his Purse.]*

Purs. I thank your honour. *[Exit Pursuivant.]*

Enter a Priest.

Pr. Well met, my lord; I am glad to see your honour.

Hast. I thank thee, good sir John, with all my heart.

I am in your debt for your last exercise;⁴
Come the next Sabbath, and I will content you.

Enter BUCKINGHAM.

Buck. What, talking with a priest, lord chamberlain?

Your friends at Pomfret, they do need the priest;
Your honour hath no shriving work in hand.⁵

Hast. 'Good faith, and when I met this holy man,
The men you talk of came into my mind.
What, go you toward the Tower?

Buck. I do, my lord; but long I cannot stay there:
I shall return before your lordship thence.

Hast. Nay, like enough, for I stay dinner there.

Buck. And supper too, although thou know'st it not. *[Aside.]*

Come, will you go?

Hast. I'll wait upon your lordship. *[Exeunt.]*

⁴ — exercise;] for attending him in private to hear his confession; or, perhaps it means only religious exhortation or lecture.

⁵ — shriving work in hand.] Shriving work is confession.

SCENE III.

Pomfret. *Before the Castle.*

Enter RATCLIFF, with a Guard, conducting RIVERS, GREY, and VAUGHAN, to Execution.

Rat. Come, bring forth the prisoners.

Riv. Sir Richard Ratcliff, let me tell thee this,—
To-day, shalt thou behold a subject die,
For truth, for duty, and for loyalty.

Grey. God keep the prince from all the pack of
you!

A knot you are of damned blood-suckers.

Vaugh. You live, that shall cry woe for this
hereafter.

Rat. Despatch; the limit of your lives is out.

Riv. O Pomfret, Pomfret! O thou bloody prison,
Fatal and ominous to noble peers!
Within the guilty closure of thy walls,
Richard the second here was hack'd to death:
And, for more slander to thy dismal seat,
We give thee up our guiltless blood to drink.

Grey. Now Margaret's curse is fallen upon our
heads,
When she exclaim'd on Hastings, you, and I,
For standing by when Richard stabb'd her son.

Riv. Then curs'd she Hastings, then curs'd she
Buckingham,
Then curs'd she Richard :—O, Remember, God,
To hear her prayers for them, as now for us!
And for my sister, and her princely sons,—
Be satisfied, dear God, with our true bloods,
Which, as thou know'st, unjustly must be spilt!

Rat. Make haste, the hour of death is expiate.*

* — the hour of death is expiate.] Perhaps, fully completed,
and ended.

Riv. Come, Grey,—come, Vaughan,—let us here
embrace :

Farewell, until we meet again in heaven. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

London. *A Room in the Tower.*

BUCKINGHAM, STANLEY, HASTINGS, *the Bishop of Ely, CATESBY, LOVEL, and Others, sitting at a Table: Officers of the Council attending.*

Hast. Now, noble peers, the cause why we are
met

Is—to determine of the coronation :

In God's name, speak, when is the royal day ?

Buck. Are all things ready for that royal time ?

Stan. They are ; and wants but nomination.⁷

Ely. To-morrow then I judge a happy day.

Buck. Who knows the lord protector's mind
herein ?

Who is most inward⁸ with the noble duke ?

Ely. Your grace, we think, should soonest know
his mind.

Buck. We know each other's faces : for our
hearts,—

He knows no more of mine, than I of yours ;

Nor I, of his, my lord, than you of mine :

Lord Hastings, you and he are near in love.

Hast. I thank his grace, I know he loves me well ;

But, for his purpose in the coronation,

I have not sounded him, nor he deliver'd

His gracious pleasure any way therein :

⁷ ——— *and wants but nomination.*] i. e. the only thing wanting,
is appointment of a particular day for the ceremony.

⁸ ——— *inward* —] i. e. intimate, confidential.

But you, my noble lord, may name the time;
And in the duke's behalf I'll give my voice,
Which, I presume, he'll take in gentle part.

Enter GLOSTER.

Ely. In happy time, here comes the duke himself.

Glo. My noble lords and cousins, all, good
morrow :

I have been long a sleeper ; but, I trust,
My absence doth neglect no great design,
Which by my presence might have been concluded.

Buck. Had you not come upon your cue,⁹ my lord,
William lord Hastings had pronounc'd your part,—
I mean, your voice,—for crowning of the king.

Glo. Than my lord Hastings, no man might be
bolder ;

His lordship knows me well, and loves me well.—
My lord of Ely, when I was last in Holborn,
I saw good strawberries¹ in your garden there ;
I do beseech you, send for some of them.

Ely. Marry, and will, my lord, with all my heart.

[*Exit ELY.*

Glo. Cousin of Buckingham, a word with you.

[*Takes him aside.*

Catesby hath sounded Hastings in our business ;
And finds the testy gentleman so hot,
That he will lose his head, ere give consent,
His master's child, as worshipfully he terms it,
Shall lose the royalty of England's throne.

⁹ *Had you not come upon your cue,*] This expression is borrowed from the theatre. The *cue*, *queue*, or *tail* of a speech, consists of the last words, which are the token for an entrance or answer. To *come on the cue*, therefore, is to come at the proper time.

¹ *I saw good strawberries* —] The reason why the Bishop was despatched on this errand, is not clearer in Holinshed, from whom Shakspeare adopted the circumstances, than in this scene, where it is introduced.

Buck. Withdraw yourself awhile, I'll go with you.

[*Exeunt GLOSTER, and BUCKINGHAM.*]

Stan. We have not yet set down this day of triumph.

To-morrow, in my judgment, is too sudden ;
For I myself am not so well provided,
As else I would be, were the day prolong'd.

Re-enter Bishop of Ely.

Ely. Where is my lord protector ? I have sent
For these strawberries.

Hast. His grace looks cheerfully and smooth this
morning ;

There's some conceit or other² likes him well,
When he doth bid good-morrow with such spirit.
I think, there's ne'er a man in Christendom,
Can lesser hide his love, or hate, than he ;
For by his face straight shall you know his heart.

Stan. What of his heart perceive you in his face,
By any likelihood he show'd to-day ?

Hast. Marry, that with no man here he is of-
fended ;
For, were he, he had shown it in his looks.

Re-enter GLOSTER and BUCKINGHAM.

Glo. I pray you all, tell me what they deserve,
That do conspire my death with devilish plots
Of damned witchcraft ; and that have prevail'd
Upon my body with their hellish charms ?

Hast. The tender love I bear your grace, my lord,
Makes me most forward in this noble presence
To doom the offenders : Whosoe'er they be,
I say, my lord, they have deserved death.

Glo. Then be your eyes the witness of their evil,

² *There's some conceit or other —] i. e. pleasant idea or fancy.*

Look how I am bewitch'd ; behold mine arm
Is, like a blasted sapling, wither'd up :
And this is Edward's wife, that monstrous witch,
Consorted with that harlot, strumpet Shore,
That by their witchcraft thus have marked me.

Hast. If they have done this deed, my noble
lord,——

Glo. If! thou protector of this damned strumpet,
Talk'st thou to me of ifs?—Thou art a traitor :—
Off with his head :—now, by saint Paul I swear,
I will not dine until I see the same.—
Lovel, and Catesby, look, that it be done ;
The rest, that love me, rise, and follow me.

[*Exeunt Council, with GLOSTER and BUCK-
INGHAM.*]

Hast. Woe, woe, for England! not a whit for me ;
For I, too fond, might have prevented this :
Stanley did dream, the boar did rase his helm ;
But I disdain'd it, and did scorn to fly.
Three times to-day my foot-cloth horse did stumble,³
And startled, when he look'd upon the Tower,
As loath to bear me to the slaughter-house.
O, now I want the priest that spake to me :
I now repent I told the pursuivant,
As too triumphing, how mine enemies,
To-day at Pomfret bloodily were butcher'd,
And I myself secure in grace and favour.
O, Margaret, Margaret, now thy heavy curse
Is lighted on poor Hastings' wretched head.

Cate. Despatch, my lord, the duke would be at
dinner ;

Make a short shrift, he longs to see your head.

Hast. O momentary grace of mortal men,

³ *Three times to-day my foot-cloth horse did stumble.*] To
stumble was anciently esteemed a bad omen. The housings of a
horse, and sometimes a horse himself, were anciently denominat-
ed a *foot-cloth*.

Which we more hunt for than the grace of God!
 Who builds his hope in air of your fair looks,
 Lives like a drunken sailor on a mast;
 Ready, with every nod, to tumble down
 Into the fatal bowels of the deep.

Lov. Come, come, despatch; 'tis bootless to ex-
 claim.

Hast. O, bloody Richard!—miserable England!
 I prophesy the fearful'st time to thee,
 That ever wretched age hath look'd upon.—
 Come, lead me to the block, bear him my head;
 They smile at me, who shortly shall be dead.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.

The same. The Tower Walls.

*Enter GLOSTER and BUCKINGHAM, in rusty armour,
 marvellous ill-favoured.*

Glo. Come, cousin, canst thou quake, and change
 thy colour?

Murder thy breath in middle of a word,—
 And then again begin, and stop again,
 As if thou wert distraught, and mad with terror?

Buck. Tut, I can counterfeit the deep tragedian;
 Speak, and look back, and pry on every side,
 Tremble and start at wagging of a straw,
 Intending deep suspicion:⁴ ghastly looks
 Are at my service, like enforced smiles;
 And both are ready in their offices,
 At any time to grace my stratagems.
 But what, is Catesby gone?

Glo. He is; and, see, he brings the mayor along.

⁴ Intending *deep suspicion*.] i. e. pretending.

Enter the Lord Mayor and CATESBY.

ick. Let me alone to entertain him,—Lord mayor,——

o. Look to the draw-bridge there.

ick. Hark, hark! a drum,

o. Catesby, o'erlook the walls.

ick. Lord mayor, the reason we have sent for you,——

o. Look back, defend thee, here are enemies.

ick. God and our innocence defend and guard us!

r LOVEL and RATCLIFF, with HASTINGS's Head.

o. Be patient, they are friends; Ratcliff, and Lovel.

ro. Here is the head of that ignoble traitor, dangerous and unsuspected Hastings.

o. So dear I lov'd the man, that I must weep.

k him for the plainest harmless't creature,

breath'd upon the earth a Christian;

e him my book, wherein my soul recorded

history of all her secret thoughts:

nooth he daub'd his vice with show of virtue,

, his apparent open guilt omitted,—

an, his conversation^s with Shore's wife,—

iv'd from all attainder of suspect.

uck. Well, well, he was the covert'st shelter'd traitor

ever liv'd.—Look you, my lord mayor,

ld you imagine, or almost believe,

re't not, that by great preservation

ive to tell it you,) the subtle traitor

day had plotted, in the council-house,

— *his conversation* —] i. e. familiar intercourse. The
— *criminal conversation*, is yet in daily use.

To murder me, and my good lord of Gloster?

May. What! had he so?

Glo. What! think you we are Turks, or infidels?

Or that we would, against the form of law,
Proceed thus rashly in the villain's death;
But that the extreme peril of the case,
The peace of England, and our persons' safety,
Enforc'd us to this execution?

May. Now, fair befall you! he deserv'd his death;
And your good graces both have well proceeded,
To warn false traitors from the like attempts.
I never look'd for better at his hands,
After he once fell in with mistress Shore.

Buck. Yet had we not determin'd he should die,
Until your lordship came to see his end;
Which now the loving haste of these our friends,
Somewhat against our meaning, hath prevented:
Because, my lord, we would have had you heard
The traitor speak, and timorously confess
The manner and the purpose of his treasons;
That you might well have signified the same
Unto the citizens, who, haply, may
Misconstrue us in him, and wail his death.

May. But, my good lord, your grace's word shall
serve,

As well as I had seen, and heard him speak:
And do not doubt, right noble princes both,
But I'll acquaint our duteous citizens
With all your just proceedings in this case.

Glo. And to that end we wish'd your lordship here,
To avoid the censures of the carping world.

Buck. But since you came too late of our intent,
Yet witness what you hear we did intend:
And so, my good lord mayor, we bid farewell.

[*Exit Lord Mayor.*]

Glo. Go, after, after, cousin Buckingham.
The mayor towards Guildhall hies him in all post:—

There, at your meetest vantage of the time,
Infer the bastardy of Edward's children :
Tell them, how Edward put to death a citizen,
Only for saying—he would make his son
Heir to the crown ; meaning, indeed, his house,
Which, by the sign thereof, was termed so.
Moreover, urge his hateful luxury,
And bestial appetite in change of lust ;
Which stretch'd unto their servants, daughters,
wives,

Even where his raging eye, or savage heart,
Without control, listed to make his prey.
Nay, for a need, thus far come near my person:—
Tell them, when that my mother went with child
Of that insatiate Edward, noble York,
My princely father then had wars in France;
And, by just computation of the time,
Found, that the issue was not his begot;
Which well appeared in his lineaments,
Being nothing like the noble duke my father:
Yet touch this sparingly, as 'twere far off;
Because, my lord, you know, my mother lives.

Buck. Doubt not, my lord: I'll play the orator,
As if the golden fee, for which I plead,
Were for myself: and so, my lord, adieu.

Glo. If you thrive well, bring them to Baynard's castle;⁶

**Where you shall find me well accompanied,
With reverend fathers, and well-learned bishops.**

Buck. I go; and, towards three or four o'clock,
Look for the news that the Guildhall affords.

[*Exit* BUCKINGHAM.]

* ——— to Baynard's castle;] It was originally built by Baynard, a nobleman who (according to Stowe's account) came in with the conqueror. This edifice, which stood in Thames-street, has long been pulled down, though parts of its strong foundation are still visible at low water. The site of it is now a timber-yard.

Glo. Go, Lovel, with all speed to Doctor Shaw.¹—
Go thou [*To CAT.*] to friar Penker ;—bid them both
Meet me, within this hour, at Baynard's castle.

[*Exeunt LOVEL and CATESBY.*

Now will I in, to take some privy order
To draw the brats of Clarence out of sight ;
And to give notice, that no manner of person
Have, any time, recourse unto the princes. [*Erit.*

SCENE VI.

A Street.

Enter a Scrivener.

Scriv. Here is the indictment of the good lord
Hastings ;

Which in a set hand fairly is engross'd,
That it may be to-day read o'er in Paul's.
And mark how well the sequel hangs together :—
Eleven hours I have spent to write it over,
For yesternight by Catesby was it sent me ;
The precedent² was full as long a doing :
And yet within these five hours Hastings liv'd,
Untainted, unexamined, free, at liberty.
Here's a good world the while !—Who is so gross,

¹ — *to doctor Shaw,*—] Shaw and Penker were two popular preachers.—Instead of a pamphlet being published by the Secretary of the Treasury, to furnish the advocates for the administration of the day, with plausible topics of argument on great political measures, (the established mode of the present time) formerly it was customary to publish the court creed from the pulpit at Saint Paul's Cross. As Richard now employed Dr. Shaw to support his claim to the crown, so, about fifteen years before, the great Earl of Warwick employed his chaplain Dr. Goddard to convince the people that Henry VI. ought to be restored, and that Edward IV. was an usurper. MALONE.

² *The precedent*—] The original draft from which the engrossment was made.

hat cannot see this palpable device ?
 et who so bold, but says—he sees it not ?
 ad is the world ; and all will come to nought,
 hen such bad dealing must be seen in thought.⁹
 [Exit.

SCENE VII.

The same. Court of Baynard's Castle.

Enter GLOSTER, and BUCKINGHAM, meeting.

Glo. How now, how now ? what say the citizens ?

Buck. Now by the holy mother of our Lord,
 he citizens are mum, say not a word.

Glo. Touch'd you the bastardy of Edward's children ?

Buck. I did ; with his contract with Lady Lucy,
 and his contract by deputy in France :
 the insatiate greediness of his desires,
 and his enforcement of the city wives ;
 his tyranny for trifles ; his own bastardy,—
 as being got, your father then in France ;
 and his resemblance, being not like the duke.
 Withal, I did infer your lineaments,—
 being the right idea of your father,
 both in your form and nobleness of mind :
 and open all your victories in Scotland,
 your discipline in war, wisdom in peace,
 your bounty, virtue, fair humility ;
 indeed, left nothing, fitting for your purpose,
 untouched, or slightly handled, in discourse.
 And, when my oratory grew to an end,
 bade them, that did love their country's good,
 cry—*God save Richard, England's Royal king !*

⁹ ——— *seen in thought,*] That is, seen in silence, without noise or detection.

Glo. And did they so ?

Buck. No, so God help me, they spake not a word;
But, like dumb statuas, or breathless stones,
Star'd on each other, and look'd deadly pale,
Which when I saw, I reprehended them ;
And ask'd the mayor, what meant this wilful silence:
His answer was—the people were not us'd
To be spoke to, but by the recorder.
Then he was urg'd to tell my tale again ;—
Thus saith the duke, thus hath the duke inferr'd ;
But nothing spoke in warrant from himself.
When he had done, some followers of mine own,
At lower end o'the hall, hurl'd up their caps,
And some ten voices cried, *God save king Richard!*
And thus I took the vantage of those few,—
Thanks, gentle citizens, and friends, quoth I ;
This general applause, and cheerful shout,
Argues your wisdom, and your love to Richard :
And even here brake off, and came away.

Glo. What tongueless blocks were they ; Would
they not speak ?

Will not the mayor then, and his brethren, come ?

Buck. The mayor is here at hand, intend some
fear ;¹

Be not you spoke with, but by mighty suit :
And look you get a prayer-book in your hand,
And stand between two churchmen, good my lord ;
For on that ground I'll make a holy descant :
And be not easily won to our requests ;
Play the maid's part, still answer nay, and take it.

Glo. I go ; And if you plead as well for them,
As I can say nay to thee for myself,
No doubt we'll bring it to a happy issue.²

¹ ——— intend some fear :] Perhaps, *pretend* ; though *intend* will stand in the sense of giving attention. JOHNSON.

² As I can say nay to thee, &c.] i. e. if (says Richard) you speak for them as plausibly as I in my own person, or for my own pur-

Buck. Go, go, up to the leads ; the lord mayor
knocks. *[Exit GLOSTER.]*

Enter the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens.

Welcome, my lord : I dance attendance here ;
I think, the duke will not be spoke withal.—

Enter, from the Castle, CATESBY.

Now, Catesby ! what says your lord to my request ?

Cate. He doth entreat your grace, my noble lord,
To visit him to-morrow, or next day :

He is within, with two right reverend fathers,
Divinely bent to meditation :

And in no worldly suit would he be mov'd,
To draw him from his holy exercise.

Buck. Return, good Catesby, to the gracious duke ;
Tell him, myself, the mayor and aldermen,
In deep designs, in matter of great moment,
No less importing than our general good,
Are come to have some conference with his grace.

Cate. I'll signify so much unto him straight.

[Exit.]

Buck. Ah, ha, my lord, this prince is not an Edward !

He is not lolling on a lewd day-bed,¹
But on his knees at meditation ;
Not dallying with a brace of courtezans,
But meditating with two deep divines ;
Not sleeping, to engross² his idle body,
But praying, to enrich his watchful soul :
Happy were England, would this virtuous prince
Take on himself the sovereignty thereof :

*passes, shall seem to deny your suit, there is no doubt but we shall
bring all to a happy issue.*

¹ — day-bed,] i. e. a couch, or sofa.

² — to engross —] To fatten, to pamper.

But, sure, I fear, we shall ne'er win him to it.

May. Marry, God defend, his grace should say
us nay !^s

Buck. I fear, he will : Here Catesby comes again ;—

Re-enter CATESBY.

Now, Catesby, what says his grace ?

Cate. He wonders to what end you have assembled
Such troops of citizens to come to him,
His grace not being warn'd thereof before,
He fears, my lord, you mean no good to him.

Buck. Sorry I am, my noble cousin should
Suspect me, that I mean no good to him :
By heaven, we come to him in perfect love ;
And so once more return and tell his grace.

[*Exit CATESBY.*

When holy and devout religious men
Are at their beads, 'tis hard to draw them thence ;
So sweet is zealous contemplation.

*Enter GLOSTER, in a Gallery above, between Two
Bishops. CATESBY returns.*

May. Sec, where his grace stands 'tw een two
clergymen !

Buck. Two props of virtue for a christian prince,
To stay him from the fall of vanity :
And, see, a book of prayer in his hand ;
True ornaments to know a holy man.—
Famous Plantagenet, most gracious prince,
Lend favourable ear to our requests ;
And pardon us the interruption
Of thy devotion, and right christian zeal.

^s — God defend, his grace should say us nay !] This pious
and courtly mayor was Edmund Shaw, brother to Dr. Shaw,
whom Richard had employed to prove his title to the crown, from
the pulpit at Saint Paul's Cross.

Glo. My lord, there needs no such apology ;
 I rather do beseech you pardon me,
 Who, earnest in the service of my God,
 Neglect the visitation of my friends.
 But, leaving this, what is your grace's pleasure ?

Buck. Even that, I hope, which pleaseth God
 above,
 And all good men of this ungovern'd isle.

Glo. I do suspect, I have done some offence,
 That seems disgracious in the city's eye ;
 And that you come to reprehend my ignorance.

Buck. You have, my lord ; Would it might please
 your grace,
 On our entreaties to amend your fault !

Glo. Else wherefore breathe I in a Christian land ?

Buck. Know, then, it is your fault, that you resign

The supreme seat, the throne majestic,
 The scepter'd office of your ancestors,
 Your state of fortune, and your due of birth,
 The lineal glory of your royal house,
 To the corruption of a blemish'd stock :
 Whilst, in the mildness of your sleepy thoughts,
 Which here we waken to our country's good,
 The noble isle doth want her proper limbs ;
 Her face defac'd with scars of infamy,
 Her royal stock graft with ignoble plants,
 And almost shoulder'd in the swallowing gulf⁶
 Of dark forgetfulness and deep oblivion.
 Which to recure,⁷ we heartly solicit
 Your gracious self to take on you the charge
 And kingly government of this your land :
 Not as protector, steward, substitute,
 Or lowly factor for another's gain :

⁶ *And almost shoulder'd in the swallowing gulph —] Shoulder'd*
as the same meaning as rudely thrust into.

⁷ *Which to recure,] To recure is to recover.*

But as successively, from blood to blood,
 Your right of birth, your empery, your own.
 For this, consorted with the citizens,
 Your very worshipful and loving friends,
 And by their vehement instigation,
 In this just suit come I to move your grace.

Glo. I cannot tell, if to depart in silence,
 Or bitterly to speak in your reproof,
 Best fitteth my degree, or your condition :
 If, not to answer,—you might haply think,
 Tongue-tied ambition, not replying, yielded
 To bear the golden yoke of sovereignty,
 Which fondly you would here impose on me ;
 If to reprove you for this suit of yours,
 So season'd with your faithful love to me,
 Then, on the other side, I check'd my friends.
 Therefore,—to speak, and to avoid the first ;
 And then, in speaking, not to incur the last,—
 Definitively thus I answer you.
 Your love deserves my thanks ; but my desert
 Unmeritable, shuns your high request.
 First, if all obstacles were cut away,
 And that my path were even to the crown,
 As the ripe revenue and due of birth ;
 Yet so much is my poverty of spirit,
 So mighty, and so many, my defects,
 That I would rather hide me from my greatness,—
 Being a bark to brook no mighty sea,—
 Than in my greatness covet to be hid,
 And in the vapour of my glory smother'd.
 But, God be thank'd, there is no need of me ;
 (And much I need to help you,^s if need were ;)
 The royal tree hath left us royal fruit,
 Which, mellow'd by the stealing hours of time,

^s *And much I need to help you,]* And I want much of the ability
 requisite to give you help, if help were needed.

well become the seat of majesty,
 make, no doubt, us happy by his reign.
 I lay what you would lay on me,
 right and fortune of his happy stars,—
 Oh, God defend, that I should wring from him!
ack. My lord, this argues conscience in your
 grace;

the respects thereof are nice and trivial,^o
 circumstances well considered.

say, that Edward is your brother's son;
 y we too, but not by Edward's wife:
 first he was contract to lady Lucy,
 mother lives a witness to his vow;
 afterwards by substitute betroth'd
 bona, sister to the king of France.
 e both put by, a poor petitioner,
 re-craz'd mother to a many sons,
 auty-waning and distressed widow,
 in the afternoon of her best days,
 e prize and purchase of his wanton eye,
 c'd the pitch and height of all his thoughts
 ase declension and loath'd bigamy;¹
 er, in his unlawful bed, he got

Edward, whom our manners call—the prince.
 e bitterly could I expostulate,
 that, for reverence to some alive,
 e a sparing limit to my tongue.
 1, good my lord, take to your royal self
 proffer'd benefit of dignity:
 ot to bless us and the land withal,
 to draw forth your noble ancestry

— *are nice and trivial.*] *Nice* is generally used by Shak-
 e. in the sense of minute, trifling, of petty import.

— *loath'd bigamy.*] *Bigamy*, by a canon of the council
 ons, A. D. 1274, (adopted in England by a statute in 4 Edw.
 as made unlawful and infamous. It differed from *polygamy*,
 ving two wives at once: as it consisted in either marrying
 irgins successively, or once marrying a widow.

From the corruption of abusing time,
Unto a lineal true-derived course.

May. Do, good my lord; your citizens entreat you.

Buck. Refuse not, mighty lord, this proffer'd love.

Cate. O, make them joyful, grant their lawful suit.

Glo. Alas, why would you heap those cares on me?

I am unfit for state and majesty:—

I do beseech you take it not amiss;

I cannot, nor I will not, yield to you.

Buck. If you refuse it,—as in love and zeal,

Loath to depose the child, your brother's son;

As well we know your tenderness of heart,

And gentle, kind, effeminate remorse,²

Which we have noted in you to your kindred,

And equally, indeed, to all estates,—

Yet know, whe'r you accept our suit or no,

Your brother's son shall never reign our king;

But we will plant some other in your throne,

To the disgrace and downfall of your house.

And, in this resolution, here we leave you;—

Come, citizens, we will entreat no more.

[*Exeunt* BUCKINGHAM and Citizens.]

Cate. Call them again, sweet prince, accept their
suit;

If you deny them, all the land will rue it.

Glo. Will you enforce me to a world of cares?

Well, call them again; I am not made of stone,

But penetrable to your kind entreaties,

[*Exit* CATESBY.]

Albeit against my conscience and my soul.—

Re-enter BUCKINGHAM, and the Rest.

Cousin of Buckingham,—and sage, grave men,—

Since you will buckle fortune on my back,

To bear her burden, whe'r I will, or no,

² ——— effeminate remorse,] i. e. pity.

I must have patience to endure the load :
But if black scandal, or foul-fac'd reproach,
 Attend the sequel of your imposition,
Your mere enforcement shall acquittance me
From all the impure blots and stains thereof ;
For God he knows, and you may partly see,
How far I am from the desire of this.

May. God bless your grace ! we see it, and will say it.

Glo. In saying so, you shall but say the truth.

Buck. Then I salute you with this royal title,—
Long live king Richard, England's worthy king !

All. Amen.

Buck. To-morrow may it please you to be crown'd ?

Glo. Even when you please, since you will have it so.

Buck. To-morrow then we will attend your grace ;
And so, most joyfully, we take our leave.

Glo. Come, let us to our holy work again :—

[*To the Bishops.*

Farewell, good cousin ;—farewell, gentle friends.

[*Exeunt.*

ACT IV.

SCENE I. Before the Tower.

Enter, on one side, *Queen ELIZABETH, Duchess of YORK, and Marquis of Dorset* ; on the other, *ANNE, Duchess of Gloster, leading Lady MARGARET PLANTAGENET, Clarence's young Daughter.*

Duch. Who meets us here ?—my niece Plantagenet

Led in the hand of her kind aunt of Gloster ?

Now, for my life, she's wand'ring to the Tower,
On pure heart's love, to greet the tender prince.—
Daughter, well met.

Anne. God give your graces both
A happy and a joyful time of day!

Q. Eliz. As much to you, good sister! Whither
away?

Anne. No further than the Tower; and, as I
guess,
Upon the like devotion as yourselves,
To gratulate the gentle princes, there.

Q. Eliz. Kind sister, thanks; we'll enter all to-
gether:

Enter BRAKENBURY.

And, in good time, here the lieutenant comes.—
Master lieutenant, pray you, by your leave,
How doth the prince, and my young son of York?

Brak. Right well, dear madam: By your patience,
I may not suffer you to visit them;
The king hath strictly charg'd the contrary.

Q. Eliz. The king! who's that?

Brak. I mean, the lord protector.

Q. Eliz. The Lord protect him from that kingly
title!

Hath he set bounds between their love, and me?
I am their mother, who shall bar me from them?

Duch. I am their father's mother, I will see them.

Anne. Their aunt I am in law, in love their
mother:

Then bring me to their sights; I'll bear thy blame,
And take thy office from thee, on thy peril.

Brak. No, madam, no, I may not leave it so;
I am bound by oath, and therefore pardon me.

[Exit BRAKENBURY.]

Enter STANLEY.

Stan. Let me but meet you, ladies, one hour hence,

And I'll salute your grace of York as mother,
And reverend looker-on of two fair queens.—

Come, madam, you must straight to Westminster,
[*To the Duchess of Gloster.*

There to be crowned Richard's royal queen.

Q. Eliz. Ah, cut my lace asunder!

That my pent heart may have some scope to beat,
Or else I swoon with this dead-killing news.

Anne. Despiteful tidings! O displeasing news!

Dor. Be of good cheer:—Mother, how fares
your grace?

Q. Eliz. O Dorset, speak not to me, get thee gone,
Death and destruction dog thee at the heels;
Thy mother's name is ominous to children:
If thou wilt outstrip death, go cross the seas,
And live with Richmond, from the reach of hell.
Go, hie thee, hie thee, from this slaughter-house,
Lest thou increase the number of the dead;
And make me die the thrall of Margaret's curse,—
Nor mother, wife, nor England's counted queen.

Stan. Full of wise care is this your counsel, ma-
dam:—

Take all the swift advantage of the hours;
You shall have letters from me to my son
In your behalf, to meet you on the way:
Be not ta'en tardy by unwise delay.

Duch. O ill-dispersing wind of misery!—
O my accursed womb, the bed of death;
A cockatrice hast thou hatch'd to the world,
Whose unavoided eye is murderous!

Stan. Come, madam, come; I in all haste was sent.

Anne. And I with all unwillingness will go.—
O, would to God, that the inclusive verge

Of golden metal, that must round my brow,
 Were red-hot steel, to sear me to the brain!³
 Anointed let me be with deadly venom;
 And die, ere men can say—God save the queen!

Q. Eliz. Go, go, poor soul, I envy not thy glory;
 To feed my humour, wish thyself no harm.

Anne. No! why?—When he, that is my husband
 now,

Came to me, as I follow'd Henry's corse;
 When scarce the blood was well wash'd from his
 hands,

Which issu'd from my other angel husband,
 And that dead saint which then I weeping follow'd;
 O, when, I say, I look'd on Richard's face,
 This was my wish,—*Be thou, quoth I, accur's'd,*
For making me, so young, so old a widow!
And, when thou wed'st, let sorrow haunt thy bed;
And be thy wife (if any be so mad)
More miserable by the life of thee,
Than thou hast made me by my dear lord's death!

Lo, ere I can repeat this curse again,
 Even in so short a space, my woman's heart
 Grossly grew captive to his honey words,
 And prov'd the subject of mine own soul's curse:
 Which ever since hath held mine eyes from rest,
 For never yet one hour in his bed
 Did I enjoy the golden dew of sleep,
 But with his timorous dreams⁴ was still awak'd.
 Besides, he hates me for my father Warwick;
 And will, no doubt, shortly be rid of me.

Q. Eliz. Poor heart, adieu; I pity thy complaining.

³ *Were red-hot steel, to sear me to the brain!*] She seems to allude to the ancient mode of punishing a regicide, or any other egregious criminal, viz. by placing a crown of iron, heated red-hot, upon his head.

⁴ *But with his timorous dreams* —] 'Tis recorded by Polydore Virgil, that Richard was frequently disturbed by terrible dreams: this is therefore no fiction. JOHNSON.

Anne. No more than with my soul I mourn for yours.

Dor. Farewell, thou woful welcomer of glory!

Anne. Adieu, poor soul, that tak'st thy leave of it!

Duch. Go thou to Richmond, and good fortune guide thee!—

[*To DORSET.*

So thou to Richard, and good angels tend thee!—

[*To ANNE.*

So thou to sanctuary, and good thoughts possess thee!

[*To Q. ELIZABETH.*

to my grave, where peace and rest lie with me!

Eighty odd years of sorrow have I seen,

And each hour's joy wreck'd with a week of teen.⁵

Q. Eliz. Stay yet; look back, with me, unto the Tower.—

Pity, you ancient stones, those tender babes,

Whom envy hath immur'd within your walls!

Rough cradle for such little pretty ones!

Rude ragged nurse! old sullen play-fellow

For tender princes, use my babies well!

So foolish sorrow bids your stones farewell.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.

A Room of State in the Palace.

Flourish of Trumpets. RICHARD, as King upon his Throne; BUCKINGHAM, CATESBY, a Page, and Others.

K. Rich. Stand all apart.—Cousin of Buckingham,—

Buck. My gracious sovereign.

⁵ And each hour's joy wreck'd with a week of teen.] *Teen* is *orrow*.

K. Rich. Give me thy hand. Thus high, by thy advice,

And thy assistance, is king Richard seated :—

But shall we wear these glories for a day ?

Or shall they last, and we rejoice in them ?

Buck. Still live they, and for ever let them last!

K. Rich. Ah, Buckingham, now do I play the touch,⁶

To try if thou be current gold, indeed :—

Young Edward lives ;—Think now what I would speak.

Buck. Say on, my loving lord.

K. Rich. Why, Buckingham, I say, I would be king.

Buck. Why, so you are, my thrice-renowned liege.

K. Rich. Ha! am I king ? 'Tis so : but Edward lives.

Buck. True, noble prince.

K. Rich. O bitter consequence,
That Edward still should live,—true, noble prince!—
Cousin, thou wast not wont to be so dull :—

Shall I be plain ? I wish the bastards dead ;

And I would have it suddenly perform'd.

What say'st thou now ? speak suddenly, be brief.

Buck. Your grace may do your pleasure.

K. Rich. Tut, tut, thou art all ice, thy kindness freezes :

Say, have I thy consent, that they shall die ?

Buck. Give me some breath, some little pause,
dear lord,

Before I positively speak in this :

I will resolve your grace immediately.

[*Exit* BUCKINGHAM.]

⁶ — now do I play the touch,] To play the touch is to represent the touchstone.

Cate. The king is angry? see, he gnaws his lip.⁷

K. Rich. I will converse with iron-witted fools,
[*Aside.*
[*Descends from his Throne.*
And unrespective boys;⁸ none are for me,
That look into me with considerate eyes;—
High-reaching Buckingham grows circumspect.—
Boy,——

Page. My lord.

K. Rich. Know'st thou not any, whom corrupt-
ing gold
Would tempt unto a close exploit⁹ of death?

Page. I know a discontented gentleman,
Whose humble means match not his haughty mind:
Gold were as good as twenty orators,
And will, no doubt, tempt him to any thing.

K. Rich. What is his name?

Page. His name, my lord, is—Tyrrel.

K. Rich. I partly know the man; Go, call him
hither, boy.— [Exit Page.]

The deep-revolving witty¹ Buckingham
No more shall be the neighbour to my counsels:
Hath he so long held out with me untir'd,
And stops he now for breath?—well, be it so.—

Enter STANLEY.

How now, lord Stanley? what's the news?

Stan. Know, my loving lord,

⁷ — see, he gnaws his lip.] Several of our ancient historians observe, that this was an accustomed action of Richard, whether he was pensive or angry.

⁸ And unrespective boys;] *Unrespective* is inattentive to consequences, inconsiderate.

⁹ — close exploit —] Is secret act.

¹ — witty—] In this place signifies *judicious* or *cunning*. A wit was not at this time employed to signify a *man of fancy*, but was used for *wisdom* or *judgment*.

The marquis Dorset, as I hear, is fled
To Richmond, in the parts where he abides.

K. Rich. Come hither, Catesby: rumour it abroad,
That Anne, my wife, is very grievous sick;
I will take order for her keeping close.^a
Inquire me out some mean-born gentleman,
Whom I will marry straight to Clarence' daughter:—
The boy is foolish, and I fear not him.—
Look, how thou dream'st!—I say again, give out,
That Anne my queen is sick, and like to die:
About it; for it stands me much upon,^b
To stop all hopes, whose growth may damage me.—

[*Exit CATESBY.*]

I must be married to my brother's daughter,
Or else my kingdom stands on brittle glass:—
Murder her brothers, and then marry her!
Uncertain way of gain! But I am in
So far in blood, that sin will pluck on sin.
Tear-falling pity dwells not in this eye.—

Re-enter Page, with TYRREL.

Is thy name—Tyrrel?

Tyr. James Tyrrel, and your most obedient subject.

K. Rich. Art thou, indeed?

Tyr. Prove me, my gracious lord.

K. Rich. Dar'st thou resolve to kill a friend of mine?

Tyr. Please you; but I had rather kill two enemies.

K. Rich. Why, then thou hast it; two deep enemies,

Foes to my rest, and my sweet sleep's disturbers,

^a *I will take order for her keeping close.*] i. e. I will take measures that shall oblige her to keep close.

^b — *it stands me much upon,*] i. e. it is of the utmost consequence to my designs.

Are they that I would have thee deal upon :⁴
 Tyrrel, I mean those bastards in the Tower.

Tyr. Let me have open means to come to them,
 And soon I'll rid you from the fear of them.

K. Rich. Thou sing'st sweet musick. Hark, come
 hither, Tyrrel ;

Go, by this token :—Rise, and lend thine ear :

[*Whispers.*

There is no more but so :—Say, it is done,
 And I will love thee, and prefer thee for it.

Tyr. I will despatch it straight. [*Exit.*

Re-enter BUCKINGHAM.

Buck. My lord, I have consider'd in my mind
 The late demand that you did sound me in.

K. Rich. Well, let that rest. Dorset is fled to
 Richmond.

Buck. I hear the news, my lord.

K. Rich. Stanley, he is your wife's son :—Well,
 look to it.

Buck. My lord, I claim the gift, my due by pro-
 mise,

For which your honour and your faith is pawn'd ;
 The earldom of Hereford, and the moveables,
 Which you have promised I shall possess.

K. Rich. Stanley, look to your wife ; if she convey
 Letters to Richmond, you shall answer it.

Buck. What says your highness to my just re-
 quest ?

K. Rich. I do remember me,—Henry the sixth
 Did prophesy, that Richmond should be king,
 When Richmond was a little peevish boy.

A king !—perhaps——

Buck. My lord,——

⁴ —— deal upon :] i. e. act upon. We should now say—deal
 with ; but the other was the phraseology of our author's time.

K. Rich. How chance, the prophet could not at that time,

Have told me, I being by, that I should kill him?

Buck. My lord, your promise for the earldom,—

K. Rich. Richmond!—When last I was at Exeter,
The mayor in courtesy show'd me the castle,
And call'd it—Rouge-mont: at which name I started;
Because a bard of Ireland told me once,
I should not live long after I saw Richmond.

Buck. My lord,——

K. Rich. Ay, what's o'clock?

Buck. I am thus bold

To put your grace in mind of what you promis'd me?

K. Rich. Well, but what is't o'clock?

Buck. Upon the stroke
Of ten.

K. Rich. Well, let it strike.⁵

Buck. Why, let it strike?

K. Rich. Because that, like a Jack,⁶ thou keep'st
the stroke

Betwixt thy begging and my meditation.

I am not in the giving vein to-day.

Buck. Why, then resolve me whe'r you will, or no.

K. Rich. Thou troublest me; I am not in the vein.

[*Exeunt King RICHARD and Train.*]

Buck. And is it thus? repays he my deep service
With such contempt? made I him king for this?

O, let me think on Hastings; and be gone
To Brecknock,⁷ while my fearful head is on. [*Exit.*]

⁵ *Well, let it strike.*] This seems to have been a proverbial sentence.

⁶ *Because that, like a Jack,—*] An image, like those at St. Dunstan's church in Fleet Street, and at the market houses at several towns in this kingdom, was usually called a *Jack of the clock-house*.

⁷ *To Brecknock,*] To the Castle of Brecknock in Wales, where the Duke of Buckingham's estate lay.

SCENE III.

The same.

Enter TYRREL.

Tyr. The tyrannous and bloody act is done ;
The most arch deed of piteous massacre,
That ever yet this land was guilty of.
Dighton, and Forrest, whom I did suborn
To do this piece of ruthless butchery,
Albeit they were flesh'd villains, bloody dogs,
Melting with tenderness and mild compassion,
Wept like two children, in their death's sad story.
O thus, quoth Dighton, lay the gentle babes,—
Thus, thus, quoth Forrest, girdling one another
Within their alabaster innocent arms :
Their lips were four red roses on a stalk,
Which, in their summer beauty, kiss'd each other.
A book of prayers on their pillow lay :
Which once, quoth Forrest, almost chang'd my mind ;
But, O, the devil—there the villain stopp'd ;
When Dighton thus told on,—we smothered
The most replenished sweet work of nature,
That, from the prime creation, e'er she fram'd.—
Hence both are gone with conscience and remorse,
They could not speak ; and so I left them both,
To bear this tidings to the bloody king.

Enter King RICHARD.

And here he comes :—All health, my sovereign lord !

K. Rich. Kind Tyrrel ! am I happy in thy news ?

Tyr. If to have done the thing you gave in charge
Beget your happiness, be happy then,
For it is done.

K. Rich. But didst thou see them dead?

Tyr. I did, my lord.

K. Rich. And buried, gentle Tyrrel?

Tyr. The chaplain of the Tower hath buried them;
But where, to say the truth, I do not know.

K. Rich. Come to me, Tyrrel, soon, at after supper,
When thou shalt tell the process of their death.

Mean time, but think how I may do thee good,
And be inheritor of thy desire.

Farewell, till then.

Tyr. I humbly take my leave. [*Exit.*]

K. Rich. The son of Clarence have I penn'd up
close;

His daughter meanly have I match'd in marriage;
The sons of Edward sleep in Abraham's bosom,
And Anne my wife hath bid the world good night.
Now, for I know the Bretagne Richmond^s aims
At young Elizabeth, my brother's daughter,
And, by that knot, looks proudly on the crown,
To her go I, a jolly thriving wooer.

Enter CATESBY.

Cate. My lord,——

K. Rich. Good news or bad, that thou com'st in
so bluntly?

Cate. Bad news, my lord: Morton is fled to
Richmond;

And Buckingham, back'd with the hardy Welshmen,
Is in the field, and still his power encreaseth.

K. Rich. Ely with Richmond troubles me more
near,
Than Buckingham and his rash-levied strength.

^s — the Bretagne Richmond —] He thus denominates Richmond, because after the battle of Tewksbury he had taken refuge in the court of Francis II. Duke of Bretagne, where by the procurement of King Edward IV. he was kept a long time in a kind of honourable custody.

Come,—I have learn'd, that fearful commenting
 Is leaden servitor⁹ to dull delay ;
 Delay leads impotent and snail-pac'd beggary :
 Then fiery expedition be my wing,
 Jove's Mercury, and herald for a king !
 Go, muster men : My counsel is my shield ;
 We must be brief, when traitors brave the field.
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.

The same. Before the Palace.

Enter Queen MARGARET.

Q. Mar. So, now prosperity begins to mellow,
 And drop into the rotten mouth of death.
 Here in these confines slyly have I lurk'd,
 To watch the waning of mine enemies.
 A dire induction¹ am I witness to,
 And will to France ; hoping, the consequence
 Will prove as bitter, black, and tragical.
 Withdraw thee, wretched Margaret ! who comes
 here ?

Enter Queen ELIZABETH and the Duchess of YORK.

Q. Eliz. Ah, my poor princes ! ah, my tender
 babes !
 My unblown flowers, new-appearing sweets !
 If yet your gentle souls fly in the air,
 And be not fix'd in doom perpetual,
 Hover about me with your airy wings,

⁹ ——— *fearful commenting*
Is leaden servitor —] Timorous thought and cautious disqui-
 sition are the dull attendants on delay.

¹ ——— *dire induction* —] *Induction* is preface, introduction,
 first part. It is so used by Sackville in our author's time.

And hear your mother's lamentation !

Q. Mar. Hover about her ; say, that right for right²
Hath dimm'd your infant morn to aged night.

Duch. So many miseries have craz'd my voice,
That my woe-wearied tongue is still and mute,—
Edward Plantagenet, why art thou dead ?

Q. Mar. Plantagenet doth quit Plantagenet,
Edward for Edward pays a dying debt.

Q. Eliz. Wilt thou, O God, fly from such gentle
lamb,

And throw them in the entrails of the wolf ?
When didst thou sleep,³ when such a deed was done ?

Q. Mar. When holy Harry died, and my sweet son.

Duch. Dead life, blind sight, poor mortal-living
ghost,

Woe's scene, world's shame, grave's due by life
usurp'd,

Brief abstract and record of tedious days,
Rest thy unrest on England's lawful earth,

[*Sitting down.*

Unlawfully made drunk with innocent blood !

Q. Eliz. Ah, that thou would'st as soon afford a
grave,

As thou canst yield a melancholy seat ;
Then would I hide my bones, not rest them here !
Ah, who hath any cause to mourn, but we ?

[*Sitting down by her.*

Q. Mar. If ancient sorrow be most reverent,
Give mine the benefit of seniory,⁴

² — say, that right for right —] Margaret now perhaps means to say, The right of me, an injured mother, whose son was slain at Tewksbury, has now operated as powerfully as that right which the death of Rutland gave you to divine justice, and has destroyed your children in their turn.

³ *When didst thou sleep, &c.*] That is, When, before the present occasion, didst thou ever sleep during the commission of such an action ?

⁴ — seniory,] For seniority. JOHNSON.

And let my griefs frown on the upper hand.
If sorrow can admit society,

[*Sitting down with them.*]

Tell o'er your woes again by viewing mine :—
I had an Edward, till a Richard kill'd him ;
I had a husband till a Richard kill'd him :
Thou hadst an Edward, till a Richard kill'd him :
Thou hadst a Richard, till a Richard kill'd him.

Duch. I had a Richard too, and thou didst kill him ;
I had a Rutland too, thou holp'st to kill him.

Q. Mar. Thou hadst a Clarence too, and Richard
kill'd him.

From forth the kennel of thy womb hath crept
A hell-hound, that doth hunt us all to death :
That dog, that had his teeth before his eyes,
To worry lambs, and lap their gentle blood,
That foul defacer of God's handy-work ;
That excellent grand tyrant of the earth,
That reigns in galled eyes of weeping souls,
Thy womb let loose, to chase us to our graves.—
O upright, just, and true-disposing God,
How do I thank thee, that this carnal cur
Preys on the issue of his mother's body,
And makes her pew-fellow^s with others' moan !

Duch. O, Harry's wife, triumph not in my woes ;
God witness with me, I have wept for thine.

Q. Mar. Bear with me ; I am hungry for revenge,
And now I cloy me with beholding it.
Thy Edward he is dead, that kill'd my Edward ;
Thy other Edward dead, to quit my Edward ;
Young York he is but boot,⁶ because both they
Match not the high perfection of my loss.
Thy Clarence he is dead, that stabb'd my Edward ;

^s — her pew-fellow —] *Pew-fellow* seems to be companion.

⁶ *Young York he is but boot,*] *Boot* is that which is thrown in to mend a purchase.

And the beholders of this tragick play,
 The adulterate Hastings, Rivers, Vaughan, Grey,
 Untimely smother'd in their dusky graves.
 Richard yet lives, hell's black intelligencer ;
 Only reserv'd their factor, to buy souls,
 And send them thither : But at hand, at hand,
 Ensues his piteous and unpitied end :
 Earth gapes, hell burns, fiends roar, saints pray,
 To have him suddenly convey'd from hence :—
 Cancel his bond of life, dear God, I pray,
 That I may live to say, The dog is dead !

Q. Eliz. O, thou didst prophecy, the time would
 come,
 That I should wish for thee to help me curse
 That bottled spider, that foul bunch-back'd toad.

Q. Mar. I call'd thee then, vain flourish of my
 fortune ;
 I call'd thee then, poor shadow, painted queen ;
 The presentation of but what I was,
 The flattering index of a direful pageant,⁷
 One heav'd a high, to be hurl'd down below :
 A mother only mock'd with two fair babes ;
 A dream of what thou wast ; a garish flag,
 To be the aim of every dangerous shot ;⁸
 A sign of dignity, a breath, a bubble ;
 A queen in jest, only to fill the scene.
 Where is thy husband now ? where be thy brothers ?

⁷ *The flattering index of a direful pageant,*] *Pageants* are dumb shows, and the poet meant to allude to one of these, the index of which promised a happier conclusion. The pageants then displayed on publick occasions were generally preceded by a brief account of the order in which the characters were to walk. These indexes were distributed among the spectators, that they might understand the meaning of such allegorical stuff as was usually exhibited. The index of every book was anciently placed before the beginning of it.

⁸ ——— a garish flag,

To be the aim of every dangerous shot ;] Alluding to the dangerous situation of those persons to whose care the standards of armies were entrusted. STEEVENS.

Where be thy two sons? wherein dost thou joy?
Who sues, and kneels, and says—God save the
queen?

Where be the bending peers that flatter'd thee?
Where be the thronging troops that follow'd
thee?

Decline all this,⁹ and see what now thou art.
For happy wife, a most distressed widow;
For joyful mother, one that wails the name;
For one being sued to, one that humbly sues;
For queen, a very caitiff crown'd with care:
For one that scorn'd at me, now scorn'd of me;
For one being fear'd of all, now fearing one;
For one commanding all, obey'd of none.
Thus hath the course of justice wheel about,
And left thee but a very prey to time;
Having no more but thought of what thou wert,
To torture thee the more, being what thou art.
Thou didst usurp my place, And dost thou not
Usurp the just proportion of my sorrow?
Now thy proud neck bears half my burden'd yoke;
From which even here I slip my wearied head,
And leave the burden of it all on thee.
Farewell, York's wife,—and queen of sad mis-
chance,—

These English woes shall make me smile in France.

Q. Eliz. O thou well skill'd in curses, stay a while,
And teach me how to curse mine enemies.

Q. Mar. Forbear to sleep the night, and fast the
day;

Compare dead happiness with living woe;
Think that thy babes were fairer than they were,
And he, that slew them, fouler than he is:
Bettering thy loss makes the bad-causer worse;
Revolving this will teach thee how to curse.

⁹ Decline *all this*,] i. e. run through all this from first to last.

Q. Eliz. My words are dull, O, quicken them
with thine!

Q. Mar. Thy woes will make them sharp, and
pierce like mine. [*Erit Q. MARGARET.*]

Duch. Why should calamity be full of words?

Q. Eliz. Windy attorneys to their client woes,
Airy succeders of intestate joys,
Poor breathing orators of miseries!

Let them have scope: though what they do impart
Help nothing else, yet do they ease the heart.

Duch. If so, then be not tongue-ty'd: go with me,
And in the breath of bitter words let's smother
My damned son, that thy two sweet sons smother'd,

[*Drum, within.*]
I hear his drum,—be copious in exclams.

Enter King RICHARD, and his Train, marching.

K. Rich. Who intercepts me in my expedition?

Duch. O, she, that might have intercepted thee,
By strangling thee in her accursed womb,
From all the slaughters, wretch, that thou hast done.

Q. Eliz. Hid'st thou that forehead with a golden
crown,

Where should be branded, if that right were right,
The slaughter of the prince that ow'd that crown,¹
And the dire death of my poor sons, and brothers?
Tell me, thou villain-slave, where are my children?

Duch. Thou toad, thou toad, where is thy brother
Clarence?

And little Ned Plantagenet, his son?

Q. Eliz. Where is the gentle Rivers, Vaughan,
Grey?

Duch. Where is kind Hastings?

K. Rich. A flourish, trumpets!—strike alarum,
drums!

¹ — that ow'd that crown,] i. e. that possessed it.

Let not the heavens hear these tell-tale women
Rail on the Lord's anointed : Strike, I say.—

[*Flourish. Alarums.*]

Either be patient, and entreat me fair,
Or with the clamorous report of war
Thus will I drown your exclamations.

Duch. Art thou my son?

K. Rich. Ay ; I thank God, my father, and
yourself.

Duch. Then patiently hear my impatience.

K. Rich. Madam, I have a touch of your condi-
tion,^a

That cannot brook the accent of reproof.

Duch. O, let me speak.

K. Rich. Do, then ; but I'll not hear.

Duch. I will be mild and gentle in my words.

K. Rich. And brief, good mother ; for I am in haste.

Duch. Art thou so hasty ? I have staid for thee,
God knows, in torment and in agony.

K. Rich. And came I not at last to comfort you ?

Duch. No, by the holy rood, thou know'st it well,
Thou cam'st on earth to make the earth my hell.

A grievous burden was thy birth to me ;

Tetchy^b and wayward was thy infancy ;

Thy school-days, frightful, desperate, wild, and fu-
rious ;

Thy prime of manhood, daring, bold, and venturous,

Thy age confirm'd, proud, subtle, sly, and bloody,

More mild, but yet more harmful, kind in hatred :

What comfortable hour canst thou name,

That ever grac'd me^c in thy company ?

^a — a touch of your condition,] A spice or particle of your temper or disposition.

^b Tetchy —] Is touchy, peevish, fretful, ill-tempered.

^c That ever grac'd me —] To grace seems here to mean the same as to bless, to make happy. So, gracious is kind, and graces are favours. JOHNSON.

K. Rich. 'Faith, none, but Humphrey Hour,⁵ that
call'd your grace
To breakfast once, forth of my company.
If I be so disgracious in your sight,
Let me march on, and not offend you, madam.—
Strike up the drum.

Duch. I pr'ythee, hear me speak.

K. Rich. You speak too bitterly.

Duch. Hear me a word,
For I shall never speak to thee again.

K. Rich. So.

Duch. Either thou wilt die, by God's just ordinance,
Ere from this war thou turn a conqueror ;
Or I with grief and extreme age shall perish,
And never look upon thy face again.
Therefore, take with thee my most heavy curse ;
Which, in the day of battle, tire thee more,
Than all the complete armour that thou wear'st !
My prayers on the adverse party fight ;
And there the little souls of Edward's children
Whisper the spirits of thine enemies,
And promise them success and victory.
Bloody thou art, bloody will be thy end ;
Shame serves thy life,⁶ and doth thy death attend.

[*Exit.*

Q. Eliz. Though far more cause, yet much less
spirit to curse

Abides in me ; I say amen to her. [*Going.*

K. Rich. Stay, madam,⁷ I must speak a word with
you.

⁵ — *Humphrey Hour,*] I believe nothing more than a quibble was meant. In our poet's twentieth Sonnet we find a similar conceit ; a quibble between *hues* (colours) and *Hughes*, (formerly spelt *Hewes*) the person addressed. MALONE.

⁶ *Shame serves thy life,*] To serve is to accompany, servants being near the persons of their masters.

⁷ *Stay, madam,*] On this dialogue 'tis not necessary to bestow

Q. Eliz. I have no more sons of the royal blood,
For thee to murder : for my daughters, Richard,—
They shall be praying nuns, not weeping queens ;
And therefore level not to hit their lives.

K. Rich. You have a daughter call'd—Elizabeth,
Virtuous and fair, royal and gracious.

Q. Eliz. And must she die for this ? O, let her live,
And I'll corrupt her manners, stain her beauty ;
Slander myself, as false to Edward's bed ;
Throw over her the veil of infamy :
So she may live unscarr'd of bleeding slaughter,
I will confess she was not Edward's daughter.

K. Rich. Wrong not her birth, she is of royal
blood.

Q. Eliz. To save her life, I'll say—she is not so.

K. Rich. Her life is safest only in her birth.

Q. Eliz. And only in that safety died her brothers.

K. Rich. Lo, at their births good stars were
opposite.

Q. Eliz. No, to their lives bad friends were con-
trary.

K. Rich. All unavoided^s is the doom of destiny.

Q. Eliz. True, when avoided grace makes destiny :
My babes were destin'd to a fairer death,
If grace had bless'd thee with a fairer life.

K. Rich. You speak, as if that I had slain my
cousins.

much criticism, part of it is ridiculous, and the whole improba-
ble. JOHNSON.

I cannot agree with Dr. Johnson's opinion. I see nothing ridicu-
lous in any part of this dialogue ; and with respect to probability,
it was not unnatural that Richard, who by his art and wheedling
tongue had prevailed on Lady Anne to marry him in her heart's
extremest grief, should hope to persuade an ambitious, and, as he
thought her, a wicked woman, to consent to his marriage with
her daughter, which would make her a queen, and aggrandize
her family. M. MASON.

^s All unavoided, &c.] i. e. unavoidable.

Q. Eliz. Cousins, indeed ; and by their uncle
cozen'd

Of comfort, kingdom, kindred, freedom, life.
Whose hands soever lanc'd their tender hearts,
Thy head, all indirectly, gave direction :
No doubt the murderous knife was dull and blunt,
Till it was whetted on thy stone-hard heart,
To revel in the entrails of my lambs.
But that still use⁹ of grief makes wild grief tame,
My tongue should to thy ears not name my boys,
Till that my nails were anchor'd in thine eyes ;
And I in such a desperate bay of death,
Like a poor bark, of sails and tackling reft,
Rush all to pieces on thy rocky bosom.

K. Rich. Madam, so thrive I in my enterprize,
And dangerous success of bloody wars,
As I intend more good to you and yours,
Than ever you or yours by me were harm'd !

Q. Eliz. What good is cover'd with the face of
heaven,
To be discover'd, that can do me good ?

K. Rich. The advancement of your children, gentle
lady.

Q. Eliz. Up to some scaffold, there to lose their
heads ?

K. Rich. No, to the dignity and height of fortune,
The high imperial type¹ of this earth's glory.

Q. Eliz. Flatter my sorrows with report of it ;
Tell me, what state, what dignity, what honour,
Canst thou demise² to any child of mine ?

K. Rich. Even all I have ; ay, and myself and all,
Will I withal endow a child of thine ;

⁹ — still use —] i. e. constant use.

¹ The high imperial type —] Type is exhibition, show, display,
or perhaps emblem.

² Canst thou demise —] To demise is to grant, from *demittere*,
to devolve a right from one to another.

in the Lethe of thy angry soul
 Thou drown the sad remembrance of those wrongs,
 Which, thou supposest, I have done to thee.

Q. Eliz. Be brief, lest that the process of thy
 kindness

is longer telling than thy kindness' date.

K. Rich. Then know, that, from my soul, I love
 thy daughter.

Q. Eliz. My daughter's mother thinks it with her
 soul.

K. Rich. What do you think?

Q. Eliz. That thou dost love my daughter, from
 thy soul:

from thy soul's love, didst thou love her brothers;
 And, from my heart's love, I do thank thee for it.

K. Rich. Be not so hasty to confound my meaning;
 I mean, that with my soul I love thy daughter,
 And do intend to make her queen of England.

Q. Eliz. Well then, who dost thou mean shall be
 her king?

K. Rich. Even he, that makes her queen; Who
 else should be?

Q. Eliz. What, thou?

K. Rich. Even so: What think you
 of it, madam?

Q. Eliz. How canst thou woo her?

K. Rich. That I would learn of you,
 One being best acquainted with her humour.

Q. Eliz. And wilt thou learn of me?

K. Rich. Madam, with all my heart.

Q. Eliz. Send to her, by the man that slew her
 brothers,

Air of bleeding hearts; thereon engrave,
 Richard, and York; then, haply, will she weep:
 Before present to her,—as sometime Margaret
 Laid to thy father, steep'd in Rutland's blood,—
 Handkerchief; which, say to her, did drain

The purple sap from her sweet brother's body,
 And bid her wipe her weeping eyes withal.
 If this inducement move her not to love,
 Send her a letter of thy noble deeds ;
 Tell her, thou mad'st away her uncle Clarence,
 Her uncle Rivers ; ay, and, for her sake,
 Mad'st quick conveyance with her good aunt Anne.

K. Rich. You mock me, madam ; this is not the way
 To win your daughter.

Q. Eliz. There is no other way ;
 Unless thou could'st put on some other shape,
 And not be Richard that hath done all this.

K. Rich. Say, that I did all this for love of her ?

Q. Eliz. Nay, then indeed, she cannot choose but
 have thee,

Having bought love with such a bloody spoil.

K. Rich. Look, what is done cannot be now
 amended ;

Men shall deal unadvisedly sometimes,
 Which after-hours give leisure to repent.
 If I did take the kingdom from your sons,
 To make amends, I'll give it to your daughter.
 If I have kill'd the issue of your womb,
 To quicken your increase, I will beget
 Mine issue of your blood upon your daughter.
 A grandam's name is little less in love,
 Than is the doating title of a mother ;
 They are as children, but one step below,
 Even of your mettle, of your very blood ;
 Of all one pain,—save for a night of groans
 Endur'd of her, for whom you bid like sorrow.*
 Your children were vexation to your youth,
 But mine shall be a comfort to your age.
 The loss, you have, is but—a son being king,
 And, by that loss, your daughter is made queen.

* ——— bid like sorrow.] *Bid* is in the past tense from *bid*.

cannot make you what amends I would,
 Therefore accept such kindness as I can.
 Forget, your son, that, with a fearful soul,
 Leads discontented steps in foreign soil,
 His fair alliance quickly shall call home
 To high promotions and great dignity :
 The king, that calls your beauteous daughter,—wife,
 Familiarly shall call thy Dorset—brother ;
 Again shall you be mother to a king,
 And all the ruins of distressful times
 Repair'd with double riches of content.
 What ! we have many goodly days to see :
 The liquid drops of tears that you have shed,
 Shall come again transform'd to orient pearl ;
 Advantaging their loan, with interest
 Of ten-times-double gain of happiness.
 So, then, my mother, to thy daughter go ;
 Make bold her bashful years with your experience ;
 Prepare her ears to hear a wooer's tale ;
 But in her tender heart the aspiring flame
 Of golden sov'reignty ; acquaint the princess
 With the sweet silent hours of marriage joys :
 And when this arm of mine hath chastised
 The petty rebel, dull-brain'd Buckingham,
 Bound with triumphant garlands will I come,
 And lead thy daughter to a conqueror's bed ;
 To whom I will retail my conquest won,*
 And she shall be sole victress, Cæsar's Cæsar.

Q. Eliz. What were I best to say ? her father's
 brother

Would be her lord ? Or shall I say, her uncle ?
 Or, he that slew her brothers, and her uncles ?
 Under what title shall I woo for thee,

* *To whom I will retail my conquest won,*] *To retail* is to hand
 down from one to another. Richard, in the present instance,
 seems to say he will *transmit* the benefit of his victories to Eli-
 zabeth.

That God, the law, my honour, and her love,
Can make seem pleasing to her tender years?

K. Rich. Infer fair England's peace by this alliance.

Q. Eliz. Which she shall purchase with still lasting war.

K. Rich. Tell her, the king, that may command,
entreats.

Q. Eliz. That at her hands, which the king's
King forbids.⁵

K. Rich. Say, she shall be a high and mighty queen.

Q. Eliz. To wail the title, as her mother doth.

K. Rich. Say, I will love her everlastingly.

Q. Eliz. But how long shall that title, ever, last?

K. Rich. Sweetly in force unto her fair life's end.

Q. Eliz. But how long fairly shall her sweet life last?

K. Rich. As long as heaven, and nature, lengthens it.

Q. Eliz. As long as hell, and Richard, likes of it.

K. Rich. Say, I, her sovereign, am her subject low.

Q. Eliz. But she, your subject, loaths such sovereignty.

K. Rich. Be eloquent in my behalf to her.

Q. Eliz. An honest tale speeds best, being plainly told.

K. Rich. Then, in plain terms tell her my loving tale.

Q. Eliz. Plain, and not honest, is too harsh a style.

K. Rich. Your reasons are too shallow and too quick.

Q. Eliz. O, no, my reasons are too deep and dead;—

Too deep and dead, poor infants, in their graves.

K. Rich. Harp not on that string, madam; that is past.

⁵ — which the king's *King forbids*.] Alluding to the prohibition in the Levitical law.

Q. Eliz. Harp on it still shall I, till heart-strings break.

K. Rich. Now, by my George, my garter, and my crown,—

Q. Eliz. Profan'd, dishonour'd, and the third usurp'd.

K. Rich. I swear.

Q. Eliz. By nothing: for this is no oath.
Thy George, profan'd, hath lost his holy honour;
Thy garter, blemish'd, pawn'd his knightly virtue;
Thy crown, usurp'd, disgrac'd his kingly glory:
If something thou would'st swear to be believ'd,
Swear then by something that thou hast not wrong'd.

K. Rich. Now by the world,—

Q. Eliz. 'Tis full of thy foul wrongs.

K. Rich. My father's death,—

Q. Eliz. Thy life hath that dishonour'd.

K. Rich. Then, by myself,—

Q. Eliz. Thyself is self-mis-us'd.

K. Rich. Why then, by God,—

Q. Eliz. God's wrong is most of all.
If thou had'st fear'd to break an oath by him,
The unity, the king thy brother made,
Had not been broken, nor my brother slain.
If thou had'st fear'd to break an oath by him,
The imperial metal, circling now thy head,
Had grac'd the tender temples of my child;
And both the princes had been breathing here,
Which now, two tender bed-fellows for dust,
Thy broken faith hath made a prey for worms.
What canst thou swear by now?

K. Rich. By the time to come.

Q. Eliz. That thou hast wronged in the time o'er-past;

For I myself have many tears to wash
Hereafter time, for time past, wrong'd by thee.
The children live, whose parents thou hast slaughter'd,

Ungovern'd youth, to wail it in their age :
 The parents live, whose children thou hast butcher'd,
 Old barren plants, to wail it with their age.
 Swear not by time to come; for that thou hast
 Mis-us'd ere used, by times ill-us'd o'er past.

K. Rich. As I intend to prosper, and repent!
 So thrive I in my dangerous attempt
 Of hostile arms! myself myself confound!
 Heaven, and fortune, bar me happy hours!
 Day, yield me not thy light; nor, night, thy rest!
 Be opposite all planets of good luck
 To my proceeding, if, with pure heart's love,
 Immaculate devotion, holy thoughts,
 I tender not thy beauteous princely daughter!
 In her consists my happiness, and thine;
 Without her, follows to myself, and thee,
 Herself, the land, and many a christian soul,
 Death, desolation, ruin, and decay :
 It cannot be avoided, but by this ;
 It will not be avoided, but by this.
 Therefore, dear mother, (I must call you so,)
 Be the attorney of my love to her.
 Plead what I will be, not what I have been ;
 Not my deserts, but what I will deserve :
 Urge the necessity and state of times,
 And be not peevish found in great designs.

Q. Eliz. Shall I be tempted of the devil thus?

K. Rich. Ay, if the devil tempt thee to do good.

Q. Eliz. Shall I forget myself, to be myself?

K. Rich. Ay, if your self's remembrance wrong
 yourself.

Q. Eliz. But thou didst kill my children.

K. Rich. But in your daughter's womb I bury
 them :

Where, in that nest of spicery, they shall breed
 Selves of themselves, to your recomforture.

Q. Eliz. Shall I go win my daughter to thy will?

K. Rich. And be a happy mother by the deed.

Q. Eliz. I go.—Write to me very shortly,
And you shall understand from me her mind.

K. Rich. Bear her my true love's kiss, and so
farewell.

[*Kissing her.* *Exit Q. ELIZABETH.*

Relenting fool, and shallow, changing—woman!⁶
How now? what news?

Enter RATCLIFF; CATESBY following.

Rat. Most mighty sovereign, on the western coast
Rideth a puissant navy; to the shore
Throng many doubtful hollow-hearted friends,
Unarm'd, and unresolv'd to beat them back:
'Tis thought, that Richmond is their admiral;
And there they hull, expecting but the aid
Of Buckingham to welcome them ashore.

K. Rich. Some light-foot friend post to the duke⁶
of Norfolk:—

Ratcliff, thyself,—or *Catesby*; where is he?

Cate. Here, my good lord.

K. Rich. *Catesby*, fly to the duke.

Cate. I will, my lord, with all convenient haste.

K. Rich. *Ratcliff*, come hither: Post to Salisbury;
When thou com'st thither,—Dull unmindful villain,
[*To CATESBY.*

Why stay'st thou here, and go'st not to the duke?

Cate. First, mighty liege, tell me your highness'
pleasure,

What from your grace I shall deliver to him.

⁶ — *changing—woman!*] Such was the real character of this Queen dowager, who would have married her daughter to King Richard, and did all in her power to alienate the Marquis of Dorset, her son, from the earl of Richmond.

⁷ *Some light-foot friend, &c.*] Richard's precipitation and confusion is in this scene very happily represented by inconsistent orders, and sudden variations of opinion. JOHNSON,

K. Rich. O, true, good Catesby ;—Bid him levy straight

The greatest strength and power he can make,
And meet me suddenly at Salisbury.

Cate. I go.

[*Exit.*

Rat. What, may it please you, shall I do at Salisbury ?

K. Rich. Why, what would'st thou do there, before I go ?

Rat. Your highness told me, I should post before.

Enter STANLEY.

K. Rich. My mind is chang'd.—Stanley, what news with you ?

Stan. None good, my liege, to please you with the hearing ;

Nor none so bad, but well may be reported.

K. Rich. Heyday, a riddle ! neither good nor bad !
What need'st thou run so many miles about,
When thou may'st tell thy tale the nearest way ?
Once more, what news ?

Stan.

Richmond is on the seas.

K. Rich. There let him sink, and be the seas on him !

White-liver'd runagate, what doth he there ?

Stan. I know not, mighty sovereign, but by guess.

K. Rich. Well, as you guess ?

Stan. Stirr'd up by Dorset, Buckingham, and Morton,

He makes for England, here to claim the crown.

K. Rich. Is the chair empty ? Is the sword unsway'd ?

Is the king dead ? the empire unpossess'd ?

What heir of York is there alive, but we ?

And who is England's king, but great York's heir ?
Then, tell me, what makes he upon the seas ?

Stan. Unless for that, my liege, I cannot guess.

K. Rich. Unless for that he comes to be your liege,
You cannot guess wherefore the Welshman comes.
Thou wilt revolt, and fly to him, I fear.

Stan. No, mighty liege, therefore mistrust me not.

K. Rich. Where is thy power then, to beat him
back?

Where be thy tenants, and thy followers?
Are they not now upon the western shore,
Safe-conducting the rebels from their ships?

Stan. No, my good lord, my friends are in the
north.

K. Rich. Cold friends to me: What do they in
the north,
When they should serve their sovereign in the west?

Stan. They have not been commanded, mighty
king:

Pleaseth your majesty to give me leave,
I'll muster up my friends; and meet your grace,
Where, and what time, your majesty shall please.

K. Rich. Ay, ay, thou wouldst be gone to join
with Richmond:

I will not trust you, sir.

Stan. Most mighty sovereign,
You have no cause to hold my friendship doubtful;
I never was, nor never will be false.

K. Rich. Well, go, muster men. But, hear you,
leave behind
Your son, George Stanley; look your heart be firm,
Or else his head's assurance is but frail.

Stan. So deal with him, as I prove true to you.
[Exit STANLEY.]

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. My gracious sovereign, now in Devonshire,
As I by friends am well advertised,
Sir Edward Courtney, and the haughty prelate,

Bishop of Exeter, his elder brother,
With many more confederates, are in arms.

Enter another Messenger.

2 *Mess.* In Kent, my liege, the Guildfords are in
arms ;

And every hour more competitors⁸
Flock to the rebels, and their power grows strong.

Enter another Messenger.

3 *Mess.* My lord, the army of great Buckingham—

K. Rich. Out on ye, owls ! nothing but songs of
death ? *[He strikes him.]*

There, take thou that, till thou bring better news.

3 *Mess.* The news I have to tell your majesty,
Is,—that, by sudden floods and fall of waters,
Buckingham's army is dispers'd and scatter'd ;
And he himself wander'd away alone,
No man knows whither.

K. Rich. O, I cry you mercy :
There is my purse, to cure that blow of thine.
Hath any well-advised friend proclaim'd
Reward to him that brings the traitor in ?

3 *Mess.* Such proclamation hath been made, my
liege.

Enter another Messenger.

4 *Mess.* Sir Thomas Lovel, and lord marquis
Dorset,

'Tis said, my liege, in Yorkshire are in arms.
But this good comfort bring I to your highness,—
The Bretagne navy is dispers'd by tempest :
Richmond, in Dorsetshire, sent out a boat

⁸ — *more competitors* —] That is, more opponents to us, or
rather *associates* with them.

Unto the shore, to ask those on the banks,
 If they were his assistants, yea, or no ;
 Who answer'd him, they came from Buckingham
 Upon his party : he, mistrusting them,
 Hois'd sail, and made his course again for Bretagne.

K. Rich. March on, march on, since we are up
 in arms ;
 If not to fight with foreign enemies,
 Yet to beat down these rebels here at home.

Enter CATESBY.

Cate. My liege, the duke of Buckingham is taken,
 That is the best news ; That the earl of Richmond
 Is with a mighty power landed at Milford,
 Is colder news, but yet they must be told.⁹

K. Rich. Away towards Salisbury ; while we rea-
 son here,¹
 A royal battle might be won and lost :—
 Some one take order, Buckingham be brought
 To Salisbury ;—the rest march on with me.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.

A Room in Lord Stanley's House.

Enter STANLEY and Sir CHRISTOPHER URSWICK.²

Stan. Sir Christopher, tell Richmond this from
 me :—

⁹ — they *must be told.*] This was the language of Shak-
 speare's time, when the word *news* was often considered as plural.

¹ — while we *reason here,*] i. e. while we *talk* here.

² *Sir Christopher Urswick.*] The person, who is called Sir
 Christopher here, and who has been styled so in the *Dramatis*
Personæ of all the impressions, was Christopher Urswick, a ba-
 chelor in divinity; and chaplain to the Countess of Richmond,
 who had intermarried with the Lord Stanley. This priest, the

That, in the sty of this most bloody boar,
 My son George Stanley is frank'd up in hold;
 If I revolt, off goes young George's head;
 The fear of that withholds my present aid.
 But, tell me, where is princely Richmond now?

Chris. At Pembroke, or at Harford-west, in
 Wales.

Stan. What men of name resort to him?

Chris. Sir Walter Herbert, a renowned soldier;
 Sir Gilbert Talbot, sir William Stanley;
 Oxford, redoubted Pembroke, sir James Blunt,
 And Rice ap Thomas, with a valiant crew;
 And many other of great fame and worth;
 And towards London do they bend their course,
 If by the way they be not fought withal.

Stan. Well, hie thee to thy lord; commend me
 to him;

Tell him the queen hath heartily consented
 He shall espouse Elizabeth her daughter.
 These letters will resolve him of my mind.

Farewell. [*Gives Papers to Sir CHRISTOPHER.*
 [*Exeunt.*

ACT V.

SCENE I. Salisbury. *An open Place.*

*Enter the Sheriff, and Guard, with BUCKINGHAM,
 led to Execution.*

Buck. Will not king Richard let me speak with
 him?

history tells us, frequently went backwards and forwards, unsus-
 pected, on messages betwixt the Countess of Richmond, and her
 husband, and the young Earl of Richmond, whilst he was pre-
 paring to make his descent on England. He was afterwards Al-
 moner to King Henry VII. and retired to Hackney, where he
 died in 1521.

Sher. No, my good lord : therefore be patient.

Buck. Hastings and Edward's children, Rivers,
Grey,

Holy king Henry, and thy fair son Edward,
Vaughan, and all that have miscarried
By underhand corrupted foul injustice :
If that your moody discontented souls
Do through the clouds behold this present hour,
Even for revenge mock my destruction !—
This is All-Souls' day, fellows, is it not ?

Sher. It is, my lord.

Buck. Why, then All-Souls' day is my body's
doomsday.

This is the day, which, in king Edward's time,
I wish'd might fall on me, when I was found
False to his children, or his wife's allies :
This is the day, wherein I wish'd to fall
By the false faith of him whom most I trusted :
This, this All-Souls' day to my fearful soul,
Is the determin'd respite of my wrongs.³
That high All-seer which I dallied with,
Hath turned my feigned prayer on my head,
And given in earnest what I begg'd in jest.
Thus doth he force the swords of wicked men
To turn their own points on their masters' bosoms :
Thus Margaret's curse falls heavy on my neck,—
*When he, quoth she, shall split thy heart with sorrow,
Remember Margaret was a prophetess.—*
Come, sirs, convey me to the block of shame ;
Wrong hath but wrong, and blame the due of blame.
[*Exeunt* BUCKINGHAM, &c.]

³ *Is the determin'd respite of my wrongs.*] Hanmer has rightly explained it, the time to which the punishment of his wrongs was respited. *Wrongs* in this line means *wrongs* done, or injurious practices.

SCENE II.

Plain near Tamworth.

Enter, with Drum and Colours, RICHMOND, OXFORD, Sir JAMES BLUNT, Sir WALTER HERBERT, and Others, with Forces, marching.

Richm. Fellows in arms, and my most loving friends,

Bruis'd underneath the yoke of tyranny,
Thus far into the bowels of the land
Have we march'd on without impediment;
And here receive we from our father Stanley
Lines of fair comfort and encouragement.
The wretched, bloody, and usurping boar,
That spoil'd your summer fields, and fruitful vines,
Swills your warm blood like wash, and makes his
trough

In your embowell'd bosoms, this foul swine
Lies now⁴ even in the center of this isle,
Near to the town of Leicester, as we learn:
From Tamworth thither, is but one day's march.
In God's name, cheerly on, courageous friends,
To reap the harvest of perpetual peace
By this one bloody trial of sharp war.

Oxf. Every man's conscience is a thousand swords,
To fight against that bloody homicide.

Herb. I doubt not, but his friends will turn to us.

Blunt. He hath no friends, but who are friends
for fear;

Which, in his dearest need, will fly from him.

Richm. All for our vantage. Then, in God's
name, march:

⁴ Lies now —] i. e. sojourns.

True hope is swift, and flies with swallow's wings,
 Kings it makes gods, and meaner creatures kings.
[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.

Bosworth Field.

*Enter King RICHARD, and Forces; the Duke of
 NORFOLK, Earl of SURREY, and Others.*

K. Rich. Here pitch our tents, even here in Bosworth field.—

My lord of Surrey, why look you so sad?

Sur. My heart is ten times lighter than my looks.

K. Rich. My lord of Norfolk,—

Nor. Here, most gracious liege.

K. Rich. Norfolk, we must have knocks; Ha! must we not?

Nor. We must both give and take, my loving lord.

K. Rich. Up with my tent: Here will I lie to-night;

[Soldiers begin to set up the King's Tent.]

But where, to-morrow?—Well, all's one for that.—

Who hath descried the number of the traitors?

Nor. Six or seven thousand is their utmost power.

K. Rich. Why, our battalia trebles that account:

Besides, the king's name is a tower of strength,

Which they upon the adverse faction want.

Up with the tent.—Come, noble gentlemen,

Let us survey the vantage of the ground;—

Call for some men of sound direction:^s—

Let's want no discipline, make no delay;

For, lords, to-morrow is a busy day. *[Exeunt.]*

^s — sound direction;] True judgment; tried military skill.

Enter, on the other side of the Field, RICHMOND, Sir WILLIAM BRANDON, OXFORD, and other Lords. Some of the Soldiers pitch RICHMOND'S Tent.

Richm. The weary sun hath made a golden set,
And, by the bright track of his fiery car,
Gives token of a goodly day to-morrow.—
Sir William Brandon, you shall bear my standard.—
Give me some ink and paper in my tent ;—
I'll draw the form and model of our battle,
Limit⁶ each leader to his several charge,
And part in just proportion our small power.
My lord of Oxford,—you, sir William Brandon,—
And you, sir Walter Herbert, stay with me :
The earl of Pembroke keeps his regiment ;⁷—
Good captain Blunt, bear my good night to him,
And by the second hour in the morning
Desire the earl to see me in my tent :—
Yet one thing more, good captain, do for me ;
Where is lord Stanley quarter'd, do you know ?

Blunt. Unless I have mista'en his colours much,
(Which, well I am assur'd, I have not done,)
His regiment lies half a mile at least
South from the mighty power of the king.

Richm. If without peril it be possible,
Sweet Blunt, make some good means⁸ to speak with
him,

And give him from me this most needful note.

Blunt. Upon my life, my lord, I'll undertake it ;
And so, God give you quiet rest to-night !

Richm. Good night, good captain Blunt. Come,
gentlemen,

⁶ *Limit* —] i. e. appoint.

⁷ — keeps his regiment ;] i. e. remains with it.

⁸ — make some good means—] i. e. adopt some convenient measure.

Let us consult upon to-morrow's business ;
In to my tent, the air is raw and cold.

[*They withdraw into the Tent.*]

*Enter, to his Tent, King RICHARD, NORFOLK,
RATCLIFF, and CATESBY.*

K. Rich. What is't o'clock ?

Cate. It's supper time, my lord ;
It's nine o'clock.*

K. Rich. I will not sup to-night.—
Give me some ink and paper.—

What, is my beaver easier than it was ?—
And all my armour laid into my tent ?

Cate. It is, my liege ; and all things are in readiness.

K. Rich. Good Norfolk, lie thee to thy charge ;
Use careful watch, choose trusty sentinels.

Nor. I go, my lord.

K. Rich. Stir with the lark to-morrow, gentle Norfolk.

Nor. I warrant you, my lord. [Exit.

K. Rich. Ratcliff,——

Rat. My lord ?

K. Rich. Send out a pursuivant at arms
To Stanley's regiment ; bid him bring his power
Before sun-rising, lest his son George fall
Into the blind cave of eternal night.—
Fill me a bowl of wine.—Give me a watch : '—

[*To CATESBY.*]

* *It's nine o'clock.*] I think, we ought to read—*six* instead of *nine*, as in the quarto edition. A supper at so late an hour as *nine* o'clock, in the year 1485, would have been a prodigy. STEEVENS.

† — *Give me a watch:*] A *watch* has many significations, but I should believe that it means in this place not a sentinel, which would be regularly placed at the king's tent ; nor an instrument to measure time, which was not used in that age ; but a watch-light, a candle to burn by him ; the light that afterwards *burns blue*. JOHNSON.

Saddle white Surrey for the field to-morrow.—
Look that my staves² be sound, and not too heavy.

Ratcliff,——

Rat. My lord?

K. Rich. Saw'st thou the melancholy lord Northumberland?³

Rat. Thomas the earl of Surrey, and himself,
Much about cock-shut time,⁴ from troop to troop,
Went through the army, cheering up the soldiers.

K. Rich. I am satisfied. Give me a bowl of wine:
I have not that alacrity of spirit,
Nor cheer of mind, that I was wont to have.—
So, set it down.—Is ink and paper ready?

Rat. It is, my lord.

K. Rich. Bid my guard watch; leave me.
About the mid of night, come to my tent,
And help to arm me.—Leave me, I say.

[*King RICHARD retires into his Tent. Exeunt*
RATCLIFF and CATESBY.

RICHMOND's Tent opens, and discovers him and his
Officers, &c.

Enter STANLEY.

Stan. Fortune and victory sit on thy helm!

Richm. All comfort that the dark night can afford,
Be to thy person, noble father-in-law!
Tell me, how fares our loving mother?

Stan. I, by attorney,⁵ bless thee from thy mother,
Who prays continually for Richmond's good:
So much for that.—The silent hours steal on,

² *Look that my staves—*] *Staves* are the wood of the lances.

³ — *the melancholy lord Northumberland?*] *Richard calls him melancholy*, because he did not join heartily in his cause.

⁴ *Cock-shut time,*] i. e. twilight.

⁵ — *by attorney,*] By deputation.

and flaky darkness breaks within the east.
 a brief, for so the season bids us be,
 repute thy battle early in the morning;
 and put thy fortune to the arbitrement
 of bloody strokes, and mortal-staring war,⁶
 as I may, (that which I would, I cannot,)
 With best advantage will deceive the time,⁷
 and aid thee in this doubtful shock of arms :
 but on thy side I may not be too forward,
 lest, being seen, thy brother tender George
 be executed in his father's sight.
 Farewell : The leisure and the fearful time
 cuts off the ceremonious vows of love,
 and ample interchange of sweet discourse,
 Which so long sunder'd friends should dwell upon ;
 God give us leisure for these rites of love !
 Once more, adieu :—Be valiant, and speed well !

Richm. Good lords, conduct him to his regiment :
 I'll strive, with troubled thoughts, to take a nap ;
 lest leaden slumber peise me down to-morrow,⁸
 When I should mount with wings of victory :
 Once more, good night, kind lords and gentlemen.

[*Exeunt* Lords, &c. *with* STANLEY.

O Thou ! whose captain I account myself,
 look on my forces with a gracious eye ;
 but in their hands thy bruising irons of wrath,
 that they may crush down with a heavy fall
 the usurping helmets of our adversaries !
 make us thy ministers of chastisement,
 that we may praise thee in thy victory !

⁶ — mortal-staring war,] I suppose, by *mortal-staring war* meant—war that looks big, or stares fatally on its victims.

STEEVENS,

⁷ I, as I may,—

With best advantage will deceive the time,] I will take the best opportunity to elude the dangers of this conjuncture.

⁸ — peise me down to-morrow,] To *peize*, i. e. to weigh down, from *peser*, French.

To thee I do commend my watchful soul,
 Ere I let fall the windows of mine eyes ;
 Sleeping, and waking, O, defend me still ! [*Sleeps.*]

The Ghost of Prince EDWARD, Son to HENRY the Sixth, rises between the two Tents.

Ghost. Let me sit heavy on thy soul to-morrow!
 [*To King RICHARD.*]

Think, how thou stab'dst me in my prime of youth
 At Tewksbury ; Despair therefore, and die !—
 Be cheerful, Richmond ; for the wronged souls
 Of butcher'd princes fight in thy behalf :
 King Henry's issue, Richmond, comforts thee.

The Ghost of King HENRY the Sixth rises.

Ghost. When I was mortal, my anointed body
 [*To King RICHARD.*]

By thee was punched full of deadly holes :
 Think on the Tower, and me ; Despair, and die ;
 Harry the sixth bids thee despair and die.—

Virtuous and holy, be thou conqueror !
 [*To RICHMOND.*]

Harry, that prophecy'd thou should'st be king,^o
 Doth comfort thee in thy sleep ; Live, and flourish !

The Ghost of CLARENCE rises.

Ghost. Let me sit heavy on thy soul to-morrow !
 [*To King RICHARD.*]

I, that was wash'd to death with fulsome wine,
 Poor Clarence, by thy guile betray'd to death !
 To-morrow in the battle think on me,
 And fall thy edgeless sword ; ' Despair, and die !—

^o *Harry, that prophecy'd thou should'st be king,]* The prophecy, to which this allusion is made, was uttered in one of the parts of *Henry the Sixth*.

Thou offspring of the house of Lancaster,

[*To* RICHMOND.

The wronged heirs of York do pray for thee;
Good angels guard thy battle! Live, and flourish

The Ghosts of RIVERS, GREY, and VAUGHAN, rise.

Riv. Let me sit heavy on thy soul to-morrow,

[*To King* RICHARD.]

Rivers, that died at Pomfret! Despair, and die!

Grey. Think upon Grey, and let thy soul despair!

[*To King* RICHARD.]

Vaugh. Think upon Vaughan ; and, with guilty
fear,

Let fall thy lance ! Despair, and die !—

[*To King* RICHARD.]

All. Awake! and think, our wrongs in Richard's
bosom [To RICHMOND.

Will conquer him ;—awake, and win the day !

The Ghost of HASTINGS rises.

Ghost. Bloody and guilty, guiltily awake,

[*To King* RICHARD.]

And in a bloody battle end thy days!

Think on lord Hastings; and despair, and die!—

Quiet untroubled soul, awake, awake!

[*To* RICHMOND.

Arm, fight, and conquer, for fair England's sake!

The Ghosts of the Two young Princes rise.

Ghosts. Dream on thy cousins smother'd in the
Tower.

Let us be lead within thy bosom, Richard,
And weigh thee down to ruin, shame, and

And fall thy edgeless sword :] *Fall*, in the present instance, is a verb active, signifying *to drop*, or *let fall*.

Thy nephews' souls bid thee despair, and die.—

Sleep, Richmond, sleep in peace, and wake in joy;

Good angels guard thee from the boar's annoy!

and beget a happy race of kings!

Richmond's unhappy sons do bid thee flourish.

The Ghost of Queen ANNE rises.

Ghost. Richard, thy wife, that wretched Anne
thy wife,

That never slept a quiet hour with thee,

Now fills thy sleep with perturbations :

To-morrow in the battle think on me,

And fall thy edgeless sword ; Despair, and die!—

Thou, quiet soul, sleep thou a quiet sleep ;

[*To RICHMOND.*

Dream of success and happy victory ;

Thy adversary's wife doth pray for thee.

The Ghost of BUCKINGHAM rises.

Ghost. The first was I, that help'd thee to the
crown ;

[*To King RICHARD.*

The last was I that felt thy tyranny :

O, in the battle think on Buckingham,

And die in terror of thy guiltiness !

Dream on, dream on, of bloody deeds and death ;

Fainting, despair ; despairing, yield thy breath!—

I died for hope,² ere I could lend thee aid :

[*To RICHMOND.*

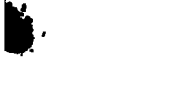
But cheer thy heart, and be thou not dismay'd :

God, and good angels fight on Richmond's side ;

And Richard falls in height of all his pride.

[*The Ghosts vanish. King RICHARD starts
out of his dream.*

² *I died for hope,*] i. e. I died for wishing well to you.





The Ghosts vanish. King Richard starts out of his Dream.

K. R. Give me another horse —

— the lights burn blue. —

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Rich. Give me another horse,^s—bind up my wounds,—

mercy, Jesu !—Soft ; I did but dream.—

ward conscience, how dost thou afflict me !—

lights burn blue.—It is now dead midnight.

earful drops stand on my trembling flesh.

do I fear ? myself ? there's none else by :

ard loves Richard ; that is, I am I.

ere a murderer here ? No ;—Yes ; I am :

fly,—What, from myself ? Great reason : Why ?

I revenge. What ? Myself on myself ?

myself. Wherefore ? for any good,

I myself have done unto myself ?

no ; alas, I rather hate myself,

ateful deeds committed by myself.

I a villain : Yet I lie, I am not.

I, of thyself speak well :—Fool, do not flatter.

conscience hath a thousand several tongues,

every tongue brings in a several tale,

every tale condemns me for a villain.

ury, perjury, in the high'st degree,

der, stern murder, in the dir'st degree ;

several sins, all us'd in each degree,

ong to the bar, crying all,—Guilty ! guilty !

all despair.—There is no creature loves me ;

if I die, no soul will pity me :—

wherefore should they ? since that I myself

in myself no pity to myself.

hought, the souls of all that I had murder'd

me to my tent : and every one did threat

morrow's vengeance on the head of Richard.

Give me another horse,] There is in this, as in many of our
speeches of passion, something very trifling, and some-
very striking. Richard's debate, whether he should quarrel
himself, is too long continued, but the subsequent exagger-
ation of his crimes is truly tragical. JOHNSON.

Enter RATCLIFF.

Rat. My lord,—

K. Rich. Who's there?

Rat. Ratcliff, my lord; 'tis I. The early village
cock

Hath twice done salutation to the morn;

Your friends are up, and buckle on their armour.

K. Rich. O, Ratcliff, I have dream'd a fearful
dream!—

What thinkest thou, will our friends prove all true?

Rat. No doubt, my lord.

K. Rich. Ratcliff, I fear, I fear,—

Rat. Nay, good my lord, be not afraid of shadows.

K. Rich. By the apostle Paul, shadows to-night
Have struck more terror to the soul of Richard,
Than can the substance of ten thousand soldiers,
Armed in proof, and led by shallow Richmond.
It is not yet near day. Come, go with me;
Under our tents I'll play the eaves-dropper,
To hear, if any mean to shrink from me.

[*Exeunt King RICHARD and RATCLIFF.*]

RICHMOND wakes. Enter OXFORD and Others.

Lords. Good morrow, Richmond.

Richm. 'Cry mercy, lords, and watchful gentlemen,
That you have ta'en a tardy sluggard here.

Lords. How have you slept, my lord?

Richm. The sweetest sleep, and fairest-boding
dreams,

That ever enter'd in a drowsy head,

Have I since your departure had, my lords.

Methought, their souls, whose bodies Richard mur-
der'd,

Came to my tent, and cried—On! victory!

I promise you, my heart is very jocund

In the remembrance of so fair a dream.
How far into the morning is it, lords?

Lords. Upon the stroke of four.

Richm. Why, then 'tis time to arm, and give direction.— [*He advances to the Troops.*]

More than I have said, loving countrymen,
The leisure and enforcement of the time
Forbids to dwell on: Yet remember this,—
God, and our good cause, fight upon our side;
The prayers of holy saints, and wronged souls,
Like high-rear'd bulwarks, stand before our faces;
Richard except, those whom we fight against,
Had rather have us win, than him they follow.
For what is he they follow? truly, gentlemen,
A bloody tyrant, and a homicide;
One rais'd in blood, and one in blood establish'd;
One that made means to come by what he hath,
And slaughter'd those that were the means to help
him;

A base foul stone, made precious by the foil
Of England's chair,* where he is falsely set;
One that hath ever been God's enemy:
Then, if you fight against God's enemy,
God will, in justice, ward you as his soldiers;
If you do sweat to put a tyrant down,
You sleep in peace, the tyrant being slain;
If you do fight against your country's foes,
Your country's fat shall pay your pains the hire;
If you do fight in safeguard of your wives,
Your wives shall welcome home the conquerors;
If you do free your children from the sword,
Your children's children quit[†] it in your age.
Then, in the name of God, and all these rights,
Advance your standards, draw your willing swords:

* *Of England's chair,]* England's chair, means England's throne.
† — quit —] i. e. requite.

For me, the ransom of my bold attempt⁶
 Shall be this cold corpse on the earth's cold face;
 But if I thrive, the gain of my attempt
 The least of you shall share his part thereof.
 Sound, drums and trumpets, boldly and cheerfully;
 God, and Saint George!⁷ Richmond and victory!
 [Exeunt.]

*Re-enter King RICHARD, RATCLIFF, Attendants,
 and Forces.*

K. Rich. What said Northumberland, as touch-
 ing Richmond?

Rat. That he was never trained up in arms.

K. Rich. He said the truth: And what said Surrey
 then?

Rat. He smil'd and said, the better for our purpose.

K. Rich. He was i'the right; and so, indeed, it is.
 [Clock strikes.]

Tell the clock there.—Give me a calendar.—
 Who saw the sun to-day?

Rat. Not I, my lord.

K. Rich. Then he disdains to shine; for, by the
 book,

He should have brav'd the east⁸ an hour ago;
 A black day will it be to somebody,—

Ratcliff.—

Rat. My lord?

K. Rich. The sun will not be seen to-day;
 The sky doth frown and lour upon our army.
 I would, these dewy tears were from the ground,
 Not shine to-day! Why, what is that to me,

⁶ — the ransom of my bold attempt —] The fine paid by me
 in atonement for my rashness shall be my dead corpse.

⁷ God, and Saint George!] Saint George was the common cry
 of the English soldiers when they charged the enemy.

⁸ — brav'd the east —] i. e. made it splendid.

More than to Richmond? for the self-same heaven,
That frowns on me, looks sadly upon him.

Enter NORFOLK.

Nor. Arm, arm, my lord; the foe vaunts in the field.

K. Rich. Come, bustle, bustle;—Caparison my horse;—

Call up lord Stanley, bid him bring his power:

I will lead forth my soldiers to the plain,

And thus my battle shall be ordered.

My forward shall be drawn out all in length,

Consisting equally of horse and foot;

Our archers shall be placed in the midst:

John duke of Norfolk, Thomas Earl of Surrey,

Shall have the leading of this foot and horse.

They thus directed, we ourself will follow

In the main battle; whose puissance on either side

Shall be well winged with our chiefest horse.

This, and saint George to boot!⁹—What think'st thou, Norfolk?

Nor. A good direction, warlike sovereign.

This found I in my [redacted] this morning.

[*Giving a Scrawl.*

K. Rich. Jocky of Norfolk, be not too bold,

[*Reads.*

For Dickon' thymaster is bought and sold.

A thing devised by the enemy.—[redacted]

Go, gentlemen, every man unto his [redacted];

Let not our babbling dreams affright our souls;

Conscience is but a word that cowards use,

Devis'd at first to keep the strong in awe;

Our strong arms be our conscience, swords our law.

⁹ *This, and Saint George to boot!*] *To boot* is to help.

¹ — *Dickon thymaster, &c.*] *Dickon* is the ancient familiarization of *Richard*. In the words—*bought and sold*, there is somewhat proverbial.

March on, join bravely, let us to't pell-mell ;
If not to heaven, then hand in hand to hell.

What shall I say more than I have infer'd ?
Remember whom you are to cope withal ;—
A sort of vagabonds,² rascals, and run-aways,
A scum of Bretagnes, and base lackey peasants,
Whom their o'er-cloy'd country vomits forth
To desperate ventures and assur'd destruction.
You sleeping safe, they bring you to unrest ;
You having lands, and bless'd with beauteous wives,
They would restrain the one, distain the other.
And who doth lead them, but a paltry fellow,
Long kept in Bretagne at our mother's cost ?
A milk-sop, one that never in his life
Felt so much cold as over shoes in snow ?
Let's whip these stragglers o'er the seas again ;
Lash hence these over-weening rags of France,
These famish'd beggars, weary of their lives ;
Who, but for dreaming on this fond exploit,
For want of means, poor rats, had hang'd themselves :
If we be conquer'd, let men conquer us,
And not these bastard Bretagnes, whom our fathers
Have in their own land beaten, bobb'd, and thump'd,
And, on record, left them the heirs of shame.
Shall these enjoy our lands ? lie with our wives ?
Ravish our daughters ?—Hark, I hear their drum.

[*Drum afar off.*]

Fight, gentlemen of England ! fight, bold yeomen !
Draw, and show your arrows to the head !
Spur your proud horses hard, and ride in blood ;
Amaze the welkin with your broken staves !³—

¹ A sort of vagabonds,] i. e. a company, a collection.

² Amaze the welkin with your broken staves !] That is, fright
the skies with the shivers of your lances. JOHNSON.

Enter a Messenger.

What says lord Stanley? will he bring his power?

Mess. My lord, he doth deny to come.

K. Rich. Off instantly with his son George's head.

Nor. My lord, the enemy is pass'd the marsh;
After the battle let George Stanley die.

K. Rich. A thousand hearts are great within my
bosom:

Advance our standards, set upon our foes;
Our ancient word of courage, fair Saint George,
Inspire us with the spleen of fiery dragons!
Upon them! Victory sits on our helmets. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.

Another Part of the Field.

*Alarum: Excursions. Enter NORFOLK, and Forces;
to him CATESBY.*

Cate. Rescue, my lord of Norfolk, rescue, rescue!
The king enacts more wonders than a man,
Daring an opposite to every danger;
His horse is slain, and all on foot he fights,
Seeking for Richmond in the throat of death:
Rescue, fair lord, or else the day is lost!

Alarum. Enter King RICHARD.

K. Rich. A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a
horse!

Cate. Withdraw, my lord, I'll help you to a
horse.

K. Rich. Slave, I have set my life upon a cast,
And I will stand the hazard of the die:
I think, there be six Richmonds in the field;

Five have I slain to-day, instead of him :—
A horse ! a horse ! my kingdom for a horse !

[*Exeunt.*]

*Alarums. Enter King RICHARD and RICHMOND;
and exeunt, fighting. Retreat, and flourish.
Then enter RICHMOND, STANLEY, bearing the
Crown, with divers other Lords, and Forces.*

Richm. God, and your arms, be prais'd, victo-
rious friends ;

The day is ours, the bloody dog is dead.

Stan. Courageous Richmond, well hast thou ac-
quit thee !

Lo, here, this long-usurped royalty,
From the dead temples of this bloody wretch
Have I pluck'd off, to grace thy brows withal ;
Wear it, enjoy it, and make much of it.

Richm. Great God of heaven, say, amen, to all !—
But, tell me first, is young George Stanley living ?

Stan. He is, my lord, and safe in Leicester town ;
Whither, if it please you, we may now withdraw us.

Richm. What men of name are slain on either
side ?

Stan. John duke of Norfolk, Walter lord Ferrers,
Sir Robert Brakenbury, and sir William Brandon.

Richm. Inter their bodies as becomes their births.
Proclaim a pardon to the soldiers fled,
That in submission will return to us ;
And then, as we have ta'en the sacrament,
We will unite the white rose with the red :—
Smile heaven upon this fair conjunction,
That long hath frown'd upon their enmity !—
What traitor hears me, and says not,—amen ?
England hath long been mad, and scarr'd herself ;
The brother blindly shed the brother's blood,
The father rashly slaughter'd his own son,
The son, compell'd, been butcher to the sire ;

this divided York and Lancaster,
 divided, in their dire division.—
 now let Richmond and Elizabeth,
 the true succeeders of each royal house,
 God's fair ordinance conjoin together!
 And let their heirs, (God, if thy will be so,)
 enrich the time to come with smooth-fac'd peace,
 with smiling plenty, and fair prosperous days!
 Abate the edge of traitors, gracious Lord,
 that would reduce these bloody days again,
 And make poor England weep in streams of blood!
 Let them not live to taste this land's increase,
 that would with treason wound this fair land's peace!
 Now civil wounds are stopp'd, peace lives again;
 That she may long live here, God say—Amen!

[*Exeunt.*]

Abate the edge —] To *abate*, is to lower, depress, subdue.
 — *reduce* —] i. e. bring back; an obsolete sense of the
 word.

This is one of the most celebrated of our author's performances; yet I know not whether it has not happened to him as to others, to be praised most, when praise is not most deserved. At this play has scenes noble in themselves, and very well adapted to strike in the exhibition, cannot be denied. But some parts are trifling, others shocking, and some improbable.

JOHNSON.

I agree entirely with Dr. Johnson in thinking that this play from its first exhibition to the present hour has been estimated greatly beyond its merit. From the many allusions to it in books of that age, and the great number of editions it passed through, I suspect it was more often represented and more admired than any of our author's tragedies. Its popularity perhaps in some measure arose from the detestation in which Richard's character was justly held, which must have operated more strongly on those whose grandfathers might have lived near his time; and from its being patronized by the Queen on the throne, who probably was not at all displeased at seeing King Henry VII. placed in the only favourable light, in which he could have been exhibited on the scene.

MALONE.

I most cordially join with Dr. Johnson and Mr. Malone in their opinions; and yet perhaps they have overlooked one cause of the success of this tragedy. The part of Richard is, perhaps, beyond

all others variegated, and consequently favourable to a judicious performer. It comprehends, indeed, a trait of almost every species of character on the stage. The hero, the lover, the statesman, the buffoon, the hypocrite, the hardened and repenting sinner, &c. are to be found within its compass. No wonder, therefore, that the discriminating powers of a Burbage, a Garrick, and a Henderson, should at different periods have given it a popularity beyond other dramas of the same author.

Yet the favour with which this tragedy is now received, must also in some measure be imputed to Mr. Cibber's reformation of it, which, generally considered, is judicious: for what modern audience would patiently listen to the narrative of Clarence's dream, his subsequent expostulation with the Murderers, the prattle of his children, the soliloquy of the Scrivener, the tedious dialogue of the Citizens, the ravings of Margaret, the gross terms thrown out by the Duchess of York on Richard, the repeated progress to execution, the superfluous train of spectres, and other undramatick incumbrances, which must have prevented the more valuable parts of the play from rising into their present effect and consequence?—The expulsion of languor, therefore, must atone for such remaining want of probability as is inseparable from an historical drama into which the events of fourteen years are irregularly compressed. STEEVENS.

KING HENRY VIII.

1

NG HENRY VIII.] We are unacquainted with any dra-
piece on the subject of Henry VIII. that preceded this of
care; and yet on the books of the Stationers' Company ap-
pears the following entry: "Nathaniel Butter] (who was one of
the best printers) Feb. 12, 1604. That he get good allowance
for the interlude of *King Henry VIII.* before he begin to print
with the warden's hand to yt, he is to have the same for
y." Dr. Farmer, in a note on the epilogue to this play,
says, from Stowe, that Robert Greene had written somewhat
the same story. STEEVENS.

This historical drama comprizes a period of twelve years, com-
mencing in the twelfth year of King Henry's reign, (1521,) and
terminating with the christening of Elizabeth in 1533. Shakspeare
deviated from history in placing the death of Queen Katharine
before the birth of Elizabeth, for in fact Katharine did not
die till 1536.

Henry VIII. was written, I believe, in 1601.
Dr. Farmer, in a note on the epilogue, observes, from Stowe,
"that Robert Greene had written something on this story;" but
he apprehends, was not a play, but some historical account of
the reign, written not by Robert Greene, the dramatick
writer, but by some other person. In the list of "authors out of
whom Stowe's *Annals* were compiled," prefixed to the last edition
of his life-time, quarto, 1605, Robert Greene is enu-
merated with Robert de Brun, Robert Fabian, &c. and he is often
cited as an authority for facts in the margin of the history of
the reign. MALONE.

PROLOGUE.

I come no more to make you laugh ; things now,
That bear a weighty and a serious brow,
Sad, high, and working, full of state and woe,
Such noble scenes as draw the eye to flow,
We now present. Those that can pity, here
May, if they think it well, let fall a tear ;
The subject will deserve it. Such, as give
Their money out of hope they may believe,
May here find truth too. Those, that come to see
Only a show or two, and so agree,
The play may pass ; if they be still, and willing,
I'll undertake, may see away their shilling
Richly in two short hours. Only they,
That come to hear a merry, bawdy play,
A noise of targets ; or to see a fellow
In a long motley coat, guarded with yellow,
Will be deceiv'd : for, gentle hearers, know,
To rank our chosen truth with such a show
As fool and fight is, ' beside forfeiting
Our own brains, and the opinion that we bring,

¹ ——— such a show

As fool and fight is,] This is not the only passage in which Shakspeare has discovered his conviction of the impropriety of battles represented on the stage. He knew that five or six men with swords, gave a very unsatisfactory idea of an army, and therefore, without much care to excuse his former practice, he allows that a theatrical fight would destroy all opinion of truth and leave him never an understanding friend. *Magnis ingeniis a multa nihilominus habituris simplex convenit erroris confessio.* Yet I know not whether the coronation shown in this play may not be liable to all that can be objected against a battle. JOHNSON.

(To make that only true we now intend,^a)
Will leave us never an understanding friend.
Therefore, for goodness' sake, and, as you are known
The first and happiest hearers of the town,
Be sad, as we would make you : Think, ye see
The very persons of our noble story,
As they were living ; think, you see them great,
And follow'd with the general throng, and sweat,
Of thousand friends ; then, in a moment, see
How soon this mightiness meets misery !
And, if you can be merry then, I'll say,
A man may weep upon his wedding day.

^a (*To make that only true we now intend,*)] To *intend*, in our author, has sometimes the same meaning as to *pretend*, but this line is somewhat obscure.

267-270 missing

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

King Henry the Eighth.

Cardinal Wolsey. Cardinal Campeius.

Capucius, Ambassador from the Emperor, Charles V.

Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Duke of Norfolk. Duke of Buckingham.

Duke of Suffolk. Earl of Surrey.

Lord Chamberlain. Lord Chancellor.

Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester.

Bishop of Lincoln. Lord Abergavenny. Lord Sands.

Sir Henry Guildford. Sir Thomas Lovell.

Sir Anthony Denny. Sir Nicholas Vaux.

Secretaries to Wolsey.

Cromwell, Servant to Wolsey.

Griffith, Gentleman-Usher to Queen Katharine.

Three other Gentlemen.

Doctor Butts, Physician to the King.

Garter, King at Arms.

Surveyor to the Duke of Buckingham.

Brandon, and a Sergeant at Arms.

Door-keeper of the Council-Chamber. Porter, and his man.

Page to Gardiner. A Crier.

Queen Katharine, Wife to King Henry, afterwards divorced.

Anne Bullen, her Maid of Honour, afterwards Queen.

An old Lady, Friend to Anne Bullen.

Patience, Woman to Queen Katharine.

Several Lords and Ladies in the Dumb Shows ; Women attending upon the Queen ; Spirits which appear to her ; Scribes, Officers, Guards, and other Attendants.

SCENE, chiefly in London and Westminster ; once at Kimbolton.

KING HENRY VIII.

ACT. I.

SCENE I. London. *An Ante-chamber in the Palace.*

Enter the Duke of NORFOLK, at one Door; at the other, the Duke of BUCKINGHAM, and the Lord ABERGAVENNY.

Buck. Good morrow, and well met. How have you done,
Since last we saw in France?

Nor. I thank your grace:
Healthful; and ever since a fresh admirer
Of what I saw there.

Buck. An untimely ague
Stay'd me a prisoner in my chamber, when
Those suns of glory, those two lights of men,
Met in the vale of Arde.

Nor. 'Twixt Guynes and Arde:¹
I was then present, saw them salute on horseback;
Beheld them, when they lighted, how they clung
In their embracement, as they grew together;
Which had they, what four thron'd ones could have
weigh'd
Such a compounded one?

Buck. All the whole time
I was my chamber's prisoner.

¹ — *Guynes and Arde*:] Guynes then belonged to the English, and Arde to the French: they are towns in Picardy, and the valley of Ardren lay between them. *Arde* is *Ardres*, but both Hall and Holinshed write it as Shakspeare does.

Nor.

Then you lost

The view of earthly glory : Men might say,
Till this time, pomp was single ; but now married
To one above itself. Each following day
Became the next day's master, till the last
Made former wonders it's : To-day, the French,
All clinquant,⁴ all in gold, like heathen gods,
Shone down the English ; and, to-morrow, they
Made Britain, India : every man, that stood,
Show'd like a mine. Their dwarfish pages were
As cherubins, all gilt : the madams too,
Not us'd to toil, did almost sweat to bear
The pride upon them, that their very labour
Was to them as a painting : Now this mask
Was cry'd incomparable ; and the ensuing night
Made it a fool and beggar. The two kings,
Equal in lustre, were now best, now worst,
As presence did present them ; him in eye
Still him in praise : and, being present both,
'Twas said, they saw but one ; and no discernor
Durst wag his tongue in censure.⁵ When these suns
(For so they phrase them,) by their heralds chal-
leng'd

The noble spirits to arms, they did perform
Beyond thought's compass ; that former fabulous story,
Being now seen possible enough, got credit,
That Bevis was believ'd.⁶

Buck.

O, you go far.

Nor. As I belong to worship, and affect
In honour honesty, the tract of every thing⁷

⁴ *All clinquant,*] All glittering, all shining. Clarendon uses this word in his description of the Spanish *Juego de Toros*.

⁵ *Durst wag his tongue in censure.*] *Censure* for determination, of which had the noblest appearance.

⁶ *That Bevis was believ'd.*] The old romantick legend of *Bevis* of Southampton.

⁷ — the tract of every thing, &c.] The course of these tri-

Would by a good discourser lose some life,
Which action's self was tongue to. All was royal;
To the disposing of it nought rebell'd,
Order gave each thing view; the office did
Distinctly his full function.⁸

Buck. Who did guide,
I mean, who set the body and the limbs
Of this great sport together, as you guess?

Nor. One, certes, that promises no element⁹
In such a business.

Buck. I pray you, who, my lord?

Nor. All this was order'd by the good discretion
Of the right reverend cardinal of York.

Buck. The devil speed him! no man's pic is free'd
From his ambitious finger. What had he
To do in these fierce vanities?¹ I wonder,
That such a keech,² can with his very bulk
Take up the rays o' the beneficial sun,
And keep it from the earth.

Nor. Surely, sir,
There's in him stuff that puts him to these ends:
For, being not propp'd by ancestry, (whose grace

umphs and pleasures, however well related, must lose in the description part of that spirit and energy which were expressed in the real action.

⁸ — *the office did*

Distinctly his full function.] The commission for regulating this festivity was well executed, and gave exactly to every particular person and action the proper place. JOHNSON.

⁹ — *element* —] No initiation, no previous practices. *Elements* are the first principles of things, or rudiments of knowledge. The word is here applied, not without a *catachresis*, to a person.

¹ — *fierce vanities?*] *Fierce* is here, I think, used like the French *fer* for *proud*, unless we suppose an allusion to the mimical ferocity of the combatants in the tilt. JOHNSON.

² *That such a keech* —] A *keech* is a solid lump or mass. A cake of wax or tallow formed in a mould, is called yet in some places, a *keech*. There may, perhaps, be a singular propriety in this term of contempt. *Wolsey* was the son of a *butcher*, and in *The Second Part of King Henry IV.* a butcher's wife is called—*Goody Kech*.

Chalks successors their way,) nor call'd upon
 For high feats done to the crown ; neither allied
 To eminent assistants, but, spider-like,
 Out of his self-drawing web, he gives us note,
 The force of his own merit makes his way ;
 A gift that heaven gives for him, which buys
 A place next to the king.

Aber.

I cannot tell

What heaven hath given him, let some graver eye
 Pierce into that ; but I can see his pride
 Peep through each part of him : Whence has he
 that ?

If not from hell, the devil is a niggard ;
 Or has given all before, and he begins
 A new hell in himself.

Buck.

Why the devil,

Upon this French going-out, took he upon him,
 Without the privy o' the king, to appoint
 Who should attend on him ? He makes up the file³
 Of all the gentry ; for the most part such
 Too, whom as great a charge as little honour
 He meant to lay upon : and his own letter,
 The honourable board of council out,
 Must fetch him in he papers.⁴

Aber.

I do know

Kinsmen of mine, three at the least, that have
 By this so sicken'd their estates, that never
 They shall abound as formerly.

Buck.

O, many

Have broke their backs with laying manors on them
 For this great journey. What did this vanity,
 But minister communication of
 A most poor issue ?⁵

³ — the file —] That is, the list.

⁴ Must fetch him in he papers.] He papers, a verb : his own letter, by his own single authority, and without the concurrence of the council, must fetch him in whom he papers down.

Nor. Grievingly I think,
The peace between the French and us not values
The cost that did conclude it.

Buck. Every man,
After the hideous storm that follow'd, was
A thing inspir'd ; and, not consulting, broke
[nto a general prophecy,—That this tempest, *
Dashing the garment of this peace, aboded
The sudden breach on't.

Nor. Which is budded out ;
For France hath flaw'd the league, and hath attach'd
Our merchants' goods at Bourdeaux.

Aber. Is it therefore
The ambassador is silenc'd ?⁶

Nor. Marry, is't.

Aber. A proper title of a peace ;⁷ and purchas'd
At a superfluous rate !

Buck. Why, all this business
Our reverend cardinal carried.⁸

Nor. 'Like it your grace,
The state takes notice of the private difference
Betwixt you and the cardinal. I advise you,
(And take it from a heart that wishes towards you
Honour and plenteous safety,) that you read
The cardinal's malice and his potency
Together : to consider further, that
What his high hatred would effect, wants not
A minister in his power : You know his nature,

⁵ *What did this vanity,*

But minister, &c.] What effect had this pompous show, but
the production of a wretched conclusion. JOHNSON.

⁶ *The ambassador is silenc'd ?]* I understand this of the French
ambassador residing in England, who, by being refused an au-
dience, may be said to be *silenc'd*. JOHNSON.

⁷ *A proper title of a peace ;]* A fine name of a peace.
Ironically. JOHNSON.

⁸ *Our reverend cardinal carried.]* To carry a business was at
this time a current phrase for to conduct or manage it.

Buck. I read in his looks
 Matter against me ; and his eye revild
 Me, as his abject object : at this instant
 He bores me with some trick :² He's gone to the
 king ;
 I'll follow, and out-stare him.

Nor. Stay, my lord,
 And let your reason with your choler question
 What 'tis you go about : To climb steep hills,
 Requires slow pace at first : Anger is like
 A full-hot horse ; who being allow'd his way,
 Self-mettle tires him. Not a man in England
 Can advise me like you : be to yourself
 As you would to your friend.

Buck. I'll to the king :
 And from a mouth of honour' quite cry down
 This Ipswich fellow's insolence ; or proclaim,
 There's difference in no persons.

Nor. Be advis'd :
 Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot
 That it do singe yourself : We may outrun,
 By violent swiftness, that which we run at,
 And lose by over-running. Know you not,
 The fire, that mounts the liquor till it run o'er,
 In seeming to augment it, wastes it ? Be advis'd :
 I say again, there is no English soul
 More stronger to direct you than yourself ;
 If with the sap of reason you would quench,
 Or but allay, the fire of passion.

Buck. Sir,
 I am thankful to you : and I'll go along
 By your prescription :—but this top-proud fellow,

² *He bores me with some trick :*] He stabs or wounds me by some artifice or fiction.

³ *—from a mouth of honour —*] I will crush this base-born fellow, by the due influence of my rank, 'or say that all distinction of persons is at an end. JOHNSON.

(Whom from the flow of gall I name not, but
 From sincere motions,)* by intelligence,
 And proofs as clear as founts in July, when
 We see each grain of gravel, I do know
 To be corrupt and treasonous.

Nor.

Say not, treasonous.

Buck. To the king I'll say't; and make my
 vouch as strong

As shore of rock. Attend. This holy fox,
 Or wolf, or both, (for he is equal ravenous,
 As he is subtle; and as prone to mischief,
 As able to perform it: his mind and place
 Infecting one another, yea, reciprocally,
 Only to show his pomp as well in France
 As here at home, suggests⁵ the king our master
 To this last costly treaty, the interview,
 That swallow'd so much treasure, and like a glass
 Did break i' the rinsing.

Nor.

'Faith, and so it did.

Buck. Pray, give me favour, sir. This cunning
 cardinal

The articles o'the combination drew,
 As himself pleas'd; and they were ratified,
 As he cried, Thus let be: to as much end,
 As give a crutch to the dead: But our count-cardinal
 Has done this, and 'tis well; for worthy Wolsey,
 Who cannot err, he did it. Now this follows,
 (Which, as I take it, is a kind of puppy
 To the old dam, treason,)—Charles the emperor,
 Under pretence to see the queen his aunt,
 (For 'twas, indeed, his colour; but he came
 To whisper Wolsey,) here makes visitation:
 His fears were, that the interview, betwixt
 England and France, might, through their amity,
 Breed him some prejudice; for from this league

⁴ — *sincere motions,*] Honest indignation.

⁵ — *suggests* —] *Suggests,* for excites.

Peep'd harms that menac'd him : He privily
Deals with our cardinal ; and, as I trow,—
Which I do well ; for, I am sure, the emperor
Paid ere he promis'd ; whereby his suit was granted,
Ere it was ask'd ;—but when the way was made,
And pay'd with gold, the emperor thus desir'd ;—
That he would please to alter the king's course,
And break the foresaid peace. Let the king know,
(As soon he shall by me,) that thus the cardinal
Does buy and sell his honour as he pleases,
And for his own advantage.

Nor. I am sorry
To hear this of him ; and could wish, he were
Something mistaken in't.⁶

Buck. No, not a syllable ;
I do pronounce him in that very shape,
He shall appear in proof.

*Enter BRANDON ; a Sergeant at Arms before him,
and two or three of the Guard.*

Bran. Your office, sergeant ; execute it.

Serg. Sir,
My lord the duke of Buckingham, and earl
Of Hereford, Stafford, and Northampton, I
Arrest thee of high treason, in the name
Of our most sovereign king.

Buck. Lo you, my lord,
The net has fall'n upon me ; I shall perish
Under device and practice.⁷

Bran. I am sorry
To see you ta'en from liberty, to look on
The business present : 'Tis his highness' pleasure,

⁶ — *he were*
Something mistaken in't.] That is, that he were something
different from what he is taken or supposed by you to be.

⁷ — *practice.*] i. e. unfair stratagem.

You shall to the Tower.

Buck. It will help me nothing,
To plead mine innocence; for that die is on me,
Which makes my whitest part black. The will of
heaven

Be done in this and all things!—I obey.—

O my lord Aberga'ny, fare you well.

Bran. Nay, he must bear you company:—The
king [To ABERGA'VENNY.

Is pleas'd, you shall to the Tower, till you know
How he determines further.

Aber. As the duke said,
The will of heaven be done, and the king's pleasure
By me obey'd.

Brand. Here is a warrant from
The king, to attach lord Montacute; and the bodies
Of the duke's confessor, John de la Court,
One Gilbert Peck, his chancellor,—

Buck. So, so;
These are the limbs of the plot: no more, I hope.

Bran. A monk o' the Chartreux.

Buck. O, Nicholas Hopkins?

Bran. He.

Buck. My surveyor is false; the o'er-great car-
dinal

Hath show'd him gold: my life is spann'd already:^a
I am the shadow of poor Buckingham;
Whose figure even this instant cloud puts on,
By dark'ning my clear sun.—My lord, farewell.

[*Exeunt.*

^a — my life is spann'd already:] My time is measur'd, the
length of my life is now determined.

SCENE II.

The Council-Chamber.

Cornets. Enter King HENRY, Cardinal WOLSEY, the Lords of the Council, Sir THOMAS LOVELL, Officers, and Attendants. The King enters leaning on the Cardinal's Shoulder.

K. Hen. My life itself, and the best heart of it,⁹
Thanks you for this great care : I stood i' the level¹
Of a full-charg'd confederacy, and give thanks
To you that chok'd it.—Let be call'd before us
That gentleman of Buckingham's : in person
I'll hear him his confessions justify ;
And point by point the treasons of his master
He shall again relate.

The King takes his State. The Lords of the Council take their several Places. The Cardinal places himself under the King's Feet, on his right Side.

A Noise within, crying, Room for the Queen. Enter the Queen, ushered by the Dukes of NORFOLK and SUFFOLK : she kneels. The King riseth from his State, takes her up, kisses, and placeth her by him.

Q. Kath. Nay, we must longer kneel ; I am a suitor.

K. Hen. Arise, and take place by us :—Half your suit

⁹ — and the best heart of it,] Heart is not here taken for the great organ of circulation and life, but, in a common, and popular sense, for the most valuable or precious part.

¹ — stood i' the level,] To stand in the level of a gun is to stand in a line with its mouth, so as to be hit by the shot.

Never name to us ; you have half our power ;
 The other moiety, ere you ask, is given ;
 Repeat your will, and take it.

Q. Kath. Thank your majesty.
 That you would love yourself ; and, in that love,
 Not unconsider'd leave your honour, nor
 The dignity of your office, is the point
 Of my petition.

K. Hen. Lady mine, proceed.

Q. Kath. I am solicited, not by a few,
 And those of true condition, that your subjects
 Are in great grievance : there have been commissions
 Sent down among them, which have flaw'd the heart
 Of all their loyalties :—wherein, although,
 My good lord cardinal, they vent reproaches
 Most bitterly on you, as putter-on
 Of these exactions, yet the king our master,
 (Whose honour heaven shield from soil !) even he
 escapes not

Language unmannerly, yea, such which breaks
 The sides of loyalty, and almost appears
 In loud rebellion.

Nor. Not almost appears,
 It doth appear : for, upon these taxations,
 The clothiers all, not able to maintain
 The many to them 'longing, have put off
 The spinsters, carders, fullers, weavers, who,
 Unfit for other life, compell'd by hunger,
 And lack of other means, in desperate manner
 Daring the event to the teeth, are all in uproar,
 And Danger serves among them.

K. Hen. Taxation !
 Wherein ? and what taxation ?—My lord cardinal,
 You that are blam'd for it alike with us,
 Know you of this taxation ?

Wol. Please you, sir,
 I know but of a single part, in aught

Pertains to the state ; and front but in that file²
Where others tell steps with me.

Q. Kath. No, my lord,
You know no more than others : but you frame
Things, that are known alike ;³ which are not whole-
some

To those which would not know them, and yet must
Perforce be their acquaintance. These exactions
Whereof my sovereign would have note, they are
Most pestilent to the hearing ; and, to bear them,
The back is sacrifice to the load. They say,
They are devis'd by you ; or else you suffer
Too hard an exclamation.

K. Hen. Still exaction !
The nature of it ? In what kind, let's know,
Is this exaction ?

Q. Kath. I am much too venturous
In tempting of your patience ; but am bolden'd
Under your promis'd pardon. The subject's grief
Comes through commissions, which compel from each
The sixth part of his substance, to be levied
Without delay ; and the pretence for this
Is nam'd, your wars in France : This makes bold
mouths :

Tongues spit their duties out, and cold hearts freeze
Allegiance in them ; their curses now
Live where their prayers did ; and it's come to pass,
That tractable obedience is a slave
To each incensed will.⁴ I would, your highness

² — *front but in that file* —] i. e. I am merely on a level with the rest, and step in the same line with them.

³ *You know no more than others : &c.*] That is, you know no more than other counsellors, but you are the person who frame those things which are afterwards proposed, and known equally by all.

⁴ — *tractable obedience, &c.*] i. e. Things are now in such a situation, that resentment and indignation predominate in every man's breast over duty and allegiance.

Would give it quick consideration, for
There is no primer business.⁵

K. Hen. By my life,
This is against our pleasure.

Vol. And for me,
I have no further gone in this, than by
A single voice; and that not pass'd me, but
By learned approbation of the judges.
If I am traduc'd by tongues, which neither know
My faculties, nor person, yet will be
The chronicles of my doing,—let me say,
'Tis but the fate of place, and the rough brake
That virtue must go through. We must not stint⁶
Our necessary actions, in the fear
To cope⁷ malicious censurers; which ever,
As ravenous fishes, do a vessel follow
That is new trimm'd; but benefit no further
Than vainly longing. What we oft do best,
By sick interpreters, once weak ones,⁸ is
Not ours, or not allow'd;⁹ what worst, as oft,
Hitting a grosser quality,¹ is cried up
For our best act. If we shall stand still,
In fear our motion will be mock'd or carp'd at;
We should take root here where we sit, or sit
State statues only.

K. Hen. Things done well,
And with a care, exempt themselves from fear;

⁵ *There is no primer business.*] No matter of state more urgent.

⁶ *We must not stint* —] To stint is here to stop, to retard.

⁷ *To cope* —] To engage with, to encounter. The word is still used in some counties.

⁸ — once weak ones,] Once is here used for sometime, or at one time or other.

⁹ *or not allow'd* ;] Not approved.

¹ — what worst, as oft,

Hitting a grosser quality,] The worst actions of great men are commended by the vulgar, as more accommodated by the grossness of their notions. JOHNSON.

Things done without example, in their issue
 Are to be fear'd. Have you a precedent
 Of this commission? I believe, not any.
 We must not rend our subjects from our laws,
 And stick them in our will. Sixth part of each?
 A trembling contribution! Why, we take,
 From every tree, lop,² bark, and part o' the timber;
 And, though we leave it with a root, thus hack'd,
 The air will drink the sap. To every county,
 Where this is question'd, send our letters, with
 Free pardon to each man that has denied
 The force of this commission: Pray, look to't;
 I put it to your care.

Wol.

A word with you.

[*To the Secretary.*

Let there be letters writ to every shire,
 Of the king's grace and pardon. The griev'd com-
 mons

Hardly conceive of me; let it be nois'd,
 That, through our intercession, this revokement
 And pardon comes: I shall anon advise you
 Further in the proceeding. [*Exit Secretary.*

Enter Surveyor.

Q. Kath. I am sorry, that the duke of Buckingham
 Is run in your displeasure.

K. Hen.

It grieves many:

The gentleman is learn'd, and a most rare speaker,
 To nature none more bound; his training such,
 That he may furnish and instruct great teachers,
 And never seek for aid out of himself.³
 Yet see

² *From every tree, lop, —*] *Lop* is a substantive, and signifies the branches.

³ *And never seek for aid out of himself.*] Beyond the treasures of his own mind.

When these so noble benefits shall prove
 Not well dispos'd, the mind growing once corrupt,
 They turn to vicious forms, ten times more ugly
 Than ever they were fair. This man so complete,
 Who was enroll'd 'mongst wonders, and when we,
 Almost with ravish'd list'ning, could not find
 His hour of speech a minute; he, my lady,
 Hath into monstrous habits put the graces
 That once were his, and is become as black
 As if besmear'd in hell. Sit by us; you shall hear
 (This was his gentleman in trust,) of him
 Things to strike honour sad.—Bid him recount
 The fore-recited practices: whereof
 We cannot feel too little, hear too much.

Wol. Stand forth; and with bold spirit relate what
 you,

Most like a careful subject, have collected
 Out of the duke of Buckingham.

K. Hen.

Speak freely.

Surv. First, it was usual with him, every day
 It would infect his speech, That if the king
 Should without issue die, he'd carry it so
 To make the scepter his: These very words
 I have heard him utter to his son-in-law,
 Lord Aberga'ny; to whom by oath he menac'd
 Revenge upon the cardinal.

Wol.

Please your highness, note

This dangerous conception in this point.
 Not friended by his wish, to your high person
 His will is most malignant; and it stretches
 Beyond you, to your friends.

Q. Kath.

My learn'd lord cardinal,

Deliver all with charity.

K. Hen.

Speak on:

How grounded he his title to the crown,
 Upon our fail? to this point hast thou heard him
 At any time speak aught?

Suro. He was brought to this
By a vain prophecy of Nicholas Hopkins.

K. Hen. What was that Hopkins?

Suro. Sir, a Chartreux friar,
His confessor; who fed him every minute
With words of sovereignty.

K. Hen. How know'st thou this?

Suro. Not long before your highness sped to
France,

The duke being at the Rose,⁴ within the parish
Saint Lawrence Poultney, did of me demand
What was the speech amongst the Londoners
Concerning the French journey: I replied,
Men fear'd, the French would prove perfidious,
To the king's danger. Presently the duke
Said, 'Twas the fear, indeed; and that he doubted,
'Twould prove the verity of certain words
Spoke by a holy monk: *that oft*, says he,
Hath sent to me, wishing me to permit
John de la Court, my chaplain, a choice hour
To hear from him a matter of some moment:
Whom after under the confession's seal
He solemnly had sworn, that, what he spoke,
My chaplain to no creature living, but
To me, should utter, with demure confidence
This pausingly ensu'd,—Neither the king, nor his
heirs,

(Tell you the duke) shall prosper: bid him strive
To gain the love of the commonalty; the duke
Shall govern England.

Q. Kath. If I know you well,
You were the duke's surveyor, and lost your office
On the complaint o' the tenants: Take good heed,

⁴ *The duke being at the Rose, &c.]* This house was purchased about the year 1561, by Richard Hill, sometime master of the Merchant Tailors company, and is now the Merchant Tailors school, in Suffolk-lane.

You charge not in your spleen a noble person,
And spoil your nobler soul! I say, take heed;
Yes, heartily beseech you.

K. Hen.

Let him on:—

Go forward.

Surv.

On my soul, I'll speak but truth.
I told my lord the duke, By the devil's illusions
The monk might be deceiv'd; and that was dan-
g'rous for him,
To ruminate on this so far, until
It forg'd him some design, which, being believ'd,
It was much like to do: He answer'd, *Tush!*
It can do me no damage: adding further,
That, had the king in his last sickness fail'd,
The cardinal's and sir Thomas Lovell's heads
Should have gone off.

K. Hen.

Ha! what, so rank?⁵ Ah, ha!
There's mischief in this man:—Canst thou say
further?

Surv. I can, my liege.

K. Hen.

Proceed.

Surv.

Being at Greenwich,
After your highness had reprov'd the duke
About sir William Blomer,—

K. Hen.

I remember,

Of such a time:—Being my servant sworn,
The duke retain'd him his.—But on; What hence?

Surv. If, quoth he, *I for this had been committed,*
As, to the Tower, I thought,—I would have play'd
The part my father meant to act upon
The usurper Richard: who, being at Salisbury,
Made suit to come in his presence; which if granted,
As he made semblance of his duty, would
Have put his knife into him.

⁵ — so rank?] *Rank* weeds, are weeds grown up to great height and strength. *What, says the King, was he advanced to this pitch?* JOHNSON.

K. Hen. A giant traitor!

Wol. Now, madam, may his highness live in freedom,

And this man out of prison?

Q. Kath. God mend all!

K. Hen. There's something more would out of thee; What say'st?

Surv. After—*the duke his father,—with the knife,—*
He stretch'd him, and, with one hand on his dagger,
Another spread on his breast, mounting his eyes,
He did discharge a horrible oath; whose tenour
Was,—Were he evil us'd, he would out-go
His father, by as much as a performance
Does an irresolute purpose.

K. Hen. There's his period,
To sheath his knife in us. He is attach'd;
Call him to present trial: if he may
Find mercy in the law, 'tis his; if none,
Let him not seek't of us: by day and night,⁶
He's traitor to the height. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.

A Room in the Palace.

Enter the Lord Chamberlain, and Lord SANDS.

Cham. Is it possible, the spells of France should
juggle
Men into such strange mysteries?⁷

⁶ — *By day and night,*] This, I believe, was a phrase anciently signifying—at all times, every way, completely. The king's words, however, by some criticks have been considered as an adjuration. I do not pretend to have determined the exact force of them. STEEVENS.

⁷ *Is it possible, the spells of France should juggle*

Men into such strange mysteries?] i. e. those fantastick manners and fashions of the French, which had operated as spells or enchantments.

Sands.

New customs,

Though they be never so ridiculous,
Nay, let them be unmanly, yet are follow'd.

Cham. As far as I see, all the good our English
Have got by the late voyage, is but merely
A fit or two o' the face;⁸ but they are shrewd ones;
For when they hold them, you would swear directly,
Their very noses had been counsellors
To Pepin, or Clotharius, they keep state so.

Sands. They have all new legs, and lame ones;
one would take it,
That never saw them pace before, the spavin,
A springhalt⁹ reign'd among them.

Cham.

Death! my lord,

Their clothes are after such a pagan cut too,
That, sure, they have worn out christendom. How
now?

What news, sir Thomas Lovell?

Enter Sir THOMAS LOVELL.

Lov.

'Faith, my lord,

I hear of none, but the new proclamation
That's clapp'd upon the court-gate.

Cham.

What is't for?

Lov. The reformation of our travell'd gallants,
That fill the court with quarrels, talk, and tailors.

Cham. I am glad, 'tis there; now I would pray
our monsieurs

To think an English courtier may be wise,
And never see the Louvre.

Lov.

They must either

(For so run the conditions,) leave these remnants

⁸ *A fit or two o' the face;*] A fit of the face is what we now term a grimace, an artificial cast of the countenance.

⁹ *A springhalt —*] The *stringhalt*, or *springhalt*, is a disease incident to horses, which gives them a convulsive motion in their paces.

Of fool, and feather,¹ that they got in France,
 With all their honourable points of ignorance,
 Pertaining thereunto, (as fights, and fireworks;
 Abusing better men than they can be,
 Out of a foreign wisdom,) renouncing clean
 The faith they have in tennis, and tall stockings,
 Short blister'd breeches,² and those types of travel,
 And understand again like honest men;
 Or pack to their old playfellows: there, I take it,
 They may, *cum privilegio*, wear away
 The lag end of their lewdness, and be laugh'd at.

Sands. 'Tis time to give them physick, their
 diseases

Are grown so catching.

Cham. What a loss our ladies
 Will have of these trim vanities!

Loe. Ay, marry,
 There will be woe indeed, lords; the sly whoresons
 Have got a speeding trick to lay down ladies;
 A French song, and a fiddle, has no fellow.

Sands. The devil fiddle them! I am glad, they're
 going;

(For, sure, there's no converting of them;) now
 An honest country lord, as I am, beaten
 A long time out of play, may bring his plain-song;
 And have an hour of hearing; and, by'r-lady,
 Held current musick too.

Cham. Well said, lord Sands;
 Your colt's tooth is not cast yet.

Sands. No, my lord;
 Nor shall not, while I have a stump.

¹ — leave these remnants

Of fool, and feather,] An allusion to the feathers which
 were formerly worn by fools in their caps.

² — blister'd breeches,] i. e. breeches puff'd, swell'd out like
blisters. The modern editors read—*bolster'd* breeches, which
 has the same meaning.

Cham. Sir Thomas,
Whither were you a going?

Lov. To the cardinal's ;
Your lordship is a guest too.

Cham. O, 'tis true :
This night he makes a supper, and a great one,
To many lords and ladies ; there will be
The beauty of this kingdom, I'll assure you.

Lov. That churchman bears a bounteous mind
indeed,
A hand as fruitful as the land that feeds us ;
His dewes fall every where.

Cham. No doubt, he's noble ;
He had a black mouth, that said other of him.

Sands. He may, my lord, he has wherewithal ; in
him,
Sparing would show a worse sin than ill doctrine :
Men of his way should be most liberal,
They are set here for examples.

Cham. True, they are so ;
But few now give so great ones. My barge stays ;³
Your lordship shall along :—Come, good sir Thomas,
We shall be late else : which I would not be,
For I was spoke to, with sir Henry Guildford,
This night to be comptrollers.

Sands. I am your lordship's.
[*Excunt.*

³ — *My barge stays ;*] The speaker is now in the King's palace at *Bridewell*, from which he is proceeding by water to York-place, (Cardinal Wolsey's house) now Whitehall.

SCENE IV.

The Presence-Chamber in York-Place.

Hautboys. A small Table under a State for the Cardinal, a longer Table for the Guests. Enter at one Door ANNE BULLEN, and divers Lords, Ladies, and Gentlewomen, as Guests; at another Door enter Sir HENRY GUILDFORD.

Guild. Ladies, a general welcome from his grace
Salutes ye all: This night he dedicates
To fair content, and you: none here, he hopes,
In all this noble bevy, has brought with her
One care abroad: he would have all as merry
As first-good company, good wine, good welcome,
Can make good people.—O, my lord, you are
tardy;

*Enter Lord Chamberlain, Lord SANDS, and Sir
THOMAS LOVELL.*

The very thought of this fair company
Clapp'd wings to me.

Cham. You are young, sir Harry Guildford,

Sands. Sir Thomas Lovell, had the cardinal
But half my lay-thoughts in him, some of these
Should find a running banquet ere they rested,
I think, would better please them: By my life,
They are a sweet society of fair ones.

Lov. O, that your lordship were but now confessor
To one or two of these!

Sands. I would, I were;

They should find easy penance.

Lov. 'Faith, how easy?

Sands. As easy as a down-bed would afford it.

Cham. Sweet ladies, will it please you sit? Sir Harry,

Place you that side, I'll take the charge of this :
 His grace is ent'ring.—Nay, you must not freeze ;
 Two women plac'd together makes cold weather :—
 My lord Sands, you are one will keep them waking ;
 Pray, sit between these ladies.

Sands.

By my faith,

And thank your lordship.—By your leave, sweet
 ladies :

*[Seats himself between ANNE BULLEN and
 another Lady.]*

If I chance to talk a little wild, forgive me ;
 I had it from my father.

Anne.

Was he mad, sir ?

Sands. O, very mad, exceeding mad, in love too :
 But he would bite none ; just as I do now,
 He would kiss you twenty with a breath.

[Kisses her.]

Cham.

Well said, my lord.—

So, now you are fairly seated :—Gentlemen,
 The penance lies on you, if these fair ladies
 Pass away frowning.

Sands.

For my little cure,

Let me alone.

*Hautboys. Enter Cardinal WOLSEY, attended ;
 and takes his state.*

Wol. You are welcome, my fair guests ; that
 noble lady,
 Or gentlemen, that is not freely merry,
 Is not my friend : This, to confirm my welcome ;
 And to you all good health. *[Drinks.]*

Sands.

Your grace is noble :—

Let me have such a bowl may hold my thanks,
 And save me so much talking.

Wol.

My lord Sands,

I am beholden to you : cheer your neighbours.—

Ladies, you are not merry ;—Gentlemen,
Whose fault is this ?

Sands. The red wine first must rise
In their fair cheeks, my lord ; then we shall have
them
Talk us to silence.

Anne. You are a merry gamester,
My lord Sands.

Sands. Yes, if I make my play.
Here's to your ladyship : and pledge it, madam,
For 'tis to such a thing,—

Anne. You cannot show me.

Sands. I told your grace, they would talk anon.
[*Drum and Trumpets within : Chambers
discharged.*⁴

Vol. What's that ?

Cham. Look out there, some of you.

[*Exit a Servant.*

Vol. What warlike voice ?

And to what end is this ?—Nay, ladies, fear not ;
By all the laws of war you are privileg'd.

Re-enter Servant.

Cham. How now ? what is't ?

Serv. A noble troop of strangers ;
For so they seem : they have left their barge, and
landed ;
And hither make, as great ambassadors

⁴ — chambers *discharged.*] A *chamber* is a gun which stands erect on its breech. Such are used only on occasions of rejoicing, and are so contrived as to carry great charges, and thereby to make a noise more than proportioned to their bulk. They are called *chambers* because they are mere *chambers* to lodge powder ; a *chamber* being the technical term for that cavity in a piece of ordnance which contains the combustibles. Some of them are still fired in the Park, and at the places opposite to the parliament-house when the king goes thither.

From foreign princes.

Wol. Good lord chamberlain,
Go, give them welcome, you can speak the French
tongue ;

And, pray, receive them nobly, and conduct them,
Into our presence, where this heaven of beauty
Shall shine at full upon them :—Some attend him.—

[*Exit Chamberlain, attended. All arise,
and Tables removed.*]

You have now a broken banquet ; but we'll mend it.
A good digestion to you all : and, once more,
I shower a welcome on you ;—Welcome all.

*Hautboys. Enter the King, and twelve Others, as
Maskers, habited like Shepherds, with sixteen
Torch-bearers ; ushered by the Lord Chamber-
lain. They pass directly before the Cardinal,
and gracefully salute him.*

A noble company ! what are their pleasures ?

Cham. Because they speak no English, thus they
pray'd

To tell your grace ;—That, having heard by fame
Of this so noble and so fair assembly
This night to meet here, they could do no less,
Out of the great respect they bear to beauty,
But leave their flocks ; and, under your fair conduct,
Crave leave to view these ladies, and entreat
An hour of revels with them.

Wol. Say, lord chamberlain,
They have done my poor house grace ; for which I
pay them
A thousand thanks, and pray them take their plea-
sures.

[*Ladies chosen for the Dance. The King
chooses ANNE BULLEN.*]

K. Hen. The fairest hand I ever touch'd ! O, beauty,

Fill now I never knew thee. [*Musick. Dance.*

Wol. My lord,——

Cham. Your grace?

Wol. Pray, tell them thus much from me :
There should be one amongst them, by his person,
More worthy this place than myself ; to whom,
If I but knew him, with my love and duty
I would surrender it.

Cham. I will, my lord.

[*CHAM. goes to the Company, and returns.*

Wol. What say they ?

Cham. Such a one, they all confess,
There is, indeed ; which they would have your grace
Find out, and he will take it.⁵

Wol. Let me see then.—
[*Comes from his State.*

By all your good leaves, gentlemen ;—Here I'll make
My royal choice,

K. Hen. You have found him, cardinal :
[*Unmasking.*

You hold a fair assembly ; you do well, lord :
You are a churchman, or I'll tell you, cardinal,
I should judge now unhappily.⁶

Wol. I am glad,
Your grace is grown so pleasant.

K. Hen. My lord chamberlain,
Pr'ythee, come hither : What fair lady's that ?

Cham. An't please your grace, sir Thomas Bul-
len's daughter,
The viscount Rochford, one of her highness' wo-
men.

K. Hen. By heaven, she is a dainty one.—Sweet-
heart,
I were unmannerly, to take you out,

⁵ — take it.] That is, take the chief place.

⁶ — unhappily.] That is, unluckily, mischievously.

And not to kiss you.⁷—A health, gentlemen,
Let it go round.

Vol. Sir Thomas Lovell, is the banquet ready
I'the privy chamber?

Lov. Yes, my lord.

Vol. Your grace,

I fear, with dancing is a little heated.

K. Hen. I fear, too much.

Vol. There's fresher air, my lord,

In the next chamber.

K. Hen. Lead in your ladies, every one.—Sweet
partner,

I must not yet forsake you :—Let's be merry ;—
Good my lord cardinal, I have half a dozen healths
To drink to these fair ladies, and a measure
To lead them once again ; and then let's dream
Who's best in favour.—Let the musick knock it.

[*Excunt, with Trumpets.*]

ACT II.

SCENE I. A Street.

Enter Two Gentlemen, meeting.

1 *Gent.* Whither away so fast?

2 *Gent.* O,—God save you!

Even to the hall, to hear what shall become
Of the great duke of Buckingham.

1 *Gent.* I'll save you

That labour, sir. All's now done, but the ceremony
Of bringing back the prisoner.

⁷ *I were unmannerly, to take you out,
And not to kiss you.] A kiss was anciently the established fee
of a lady's partner.*

2 *Gent.* Were you there?

1 *Gent.* Yes, indeed, was I.

2 *Gent.* Pray, speak, what has happen'd?

1 *Gent.* You may guess quickly what.

2 *Gent.* Is he found guilty?

1 *Gent.* Yes, truly is he, and condemn'd upon it.

2 *Gent.* I am sorry for't.

1 *Gent.* So are a number more.

2 *Gent.* But, pray, how pass'd it?

1 *Gent.* I'll tell you in a little. The great duke
came to the bar; where, to his accusations,
he pleaded still, not guilty, and alleg'd
many sharp reasons to defeat the law.
The king's attorney, on the contrary,
leg'd on the examinations, proofs, confessions
of divers witnesses; which the duke desir'd
to him brought, *viva voce*, to his face:
at which appear'd against him, his surveyor;
sir Gilbert Peck his chancellor; and John Court,
confessor to him; with that devil-monk,
Iopkins, that made this mischief.

2 *Gent.* That was he,
that fed him with his prophecies?

1 *Gent.* The same.
all these accus'd him strongly; which he fain
Would have flung from him, but, indeed, he could
not:

and so his peers, upon this evidence,
have found him guilty of high treason. Much
he spoke, and learnedly, for life; but all
was either pitied in him, or forgotten.

2 *Gent.* After all this, how did he bear him-
self?

1 *Gent.* When he was brought again to the
bar,—to hear
his knell rung out, his judgment,—he was stirr'd
With such an agony, he sweat extremely,

And something spoke in choler, ill, and hasty :
 But he fell to himself again, and, sweetly,
 In all the rest show'd a most noble patience.

2 *Gent.* I do not think, he fears death.

1 *Gent.* Sure, he does not,
 He never was so womanish ; the cause
 He may a little grieve at.

2 *Gent.* Certainly,
 The cardinal is the end of this.

1 *Gent.* 'Tis likely,
 By all conjectures : First, Kildare's attainder,
 Then deputy of Ireland ; who remov'd,
 Earl Surrey was sent thither, and in haste too,
 Lest he should help his father.

2 *Gent.* That trick of state
 Was a deep envious one.

1 *Gent.* At his return,
 No doubt, he will requite it. This is noted,
 And generally ; whoever the king favours,
 The cardinal instantly will find employment,
 And far enough from court too.

2 *Gent.* All the commons
 Hate him perniciously, and, o' my conscience,
 Wish him ten fathom deep : this duke as much
 They love and dote on ; call him, bounteous Buck-
 ingham,

The mirror of all courtesy ;—

1 *Gent.* Stay there, sir,
 And see the noble ruin'd man you speak of.

*Enter BUCKINGHAM from his Arraignment ; Tip-
 staves before him ; the Axe with the Edge to-
 wards him ; Halberds on each Side ; with him,
 Sir THOMAS LOVELL, Sir NICHOLAS VAUX, Sir
 WILLIAM SANDS, and common People.*

2 *Gent.* Let's stand close, and behold him.

Buck. All good people,

You that thus far have come to pity me,
 Hear what I say, and then go home and lose me.
 I have this day receiv'd a traitor's judgment,
 And by that name must die; Yet, heaven bear wit-
 ness,

And, if I have a conscience, let it sink me,
 Even as the axe falls, if I be not faithful!
 The law I bear no malice for my death,
 It has done, upon the premises, but justice:
 But those, that wrought it, I could wish more chris-
 tians:

Be what they will, I heartily forgive them:
 Yet let them look they glory not in mischief,
 Nor build their evils on the graves of great men;
 For then my guiltless blood must cry against them.
 For further life in this world I ne'er hope,
 Nor will I sue, although the king have mercies
 More than I dare make faults. You few that lov'd
 me,

And dare be bold to weep for Buckingham,
 His noble friends, and fellows, whom to leave
 Is only bitter to him, only dying,
 Go with me, like good angels, to my end;
 And, as the long divorce of steel falls on me,
 Make of your prayers one sweet sacrifice,
 And lift my soul to heaven.—Lead on, o'God's
 name.

Lov. I do beseech your grace, for charity,
 If ever any malice in your heart
 Were hid against me, now to forgive me frankly.

Buck. Sir Thomas Lovell, I as free forgive you;
 As I would be forgiven: I forgive all;
 There cannot be those numberless offences
 'Gainst me, I can't take peace with: no black envy
 Shall make my grave.^a—Commend me to his grace;

^a — no black envy

Shall make my grave.] Shakspeare, by this expression, meant

And, if he speak of Buckingham, pray, tell him,
 You met him half in heaven : my vows and prayers
 Yet are the king's ; and, till my soul forsake me,
 Shall cry for blessings on him : May he live
 Longer than I have time to tell his years !
 Ever belov'd, and loving, may his rule be !
 And, when old time shall lead him to his end,
 Goodness and he fill up one monument !

Lov. To the water side I must conduct your grace ;
 Then give my charge up to sir Nicholas Vaux,
 Who undertakes you to your end.

Vaux. Prepare there,
 The duke is coming ; see, the barge be ready ;
 And fit it with such furniture, as suits
 The greatness of his person.

Buck. Nay, sir Nicholas,
 Let it alone ; my state now will but mock me.
 When I came hither, I was lord high constable,
 And duke of Buckingham ; now, poor Edward
 Bohun :
 Yet I am richer than my base accusers,
 That never knew what truth meant : I now seal it ;
 And with that blood will make them one day groan
 for't.

My noble father, Henry of Buckingham,
 Who first rais'd head against usurping Richard,
 Flying for succour to his servant Banister,
 Being distress'd, was by that wretch betray'd,
 And without trial fell ; God's peace be with him !
 Henry the seventh succeeding, truly pitying
 My father's loss, like a most royal prince,

no more than to make the Duke say, *No action expressive of malice shall conclude my life.* The sense will then be, (whether quaintly or poetically expressed, let the reader determine) *no malicious action shall close my grave, i. e. attend the conclusion of my existence, or terminate my life ; the last action of it shall not be uncharitable.* STEEVENS.

Restor'd me to my honours, and, out of ruins,
 Made my name once more noble. Now his son,
 Henry the eighth, life, honour, name, and all
 That made me happy, at one stroke has taken
 For ever from the world. I had my trial,
 And, must needs say, a noble one ; which makes me
 A little happier than my wretched father :
 Yet thus far we are one in fortunes,—Both
 Fell by our servants, by those men we lov'd most ;
 A most unnatural and faithless service !
 Heaven has an end in all : Yet, you that hear me,
 This from a dying man receive as certain :
 Where you are liberal of your loves, and counsels,
 Be sure, you be not loose ; for those you make friends,
 And give your hearts to, when they once perceive
 The least rub in your fortunes, fall away
 Like water from ye, never found again
 But where they mean to sink ye. All good people,
 Pray for me ! I must now forsake ye ; the last hour
 Of my long weary life is come upon me.
 Farewell :

And when you would say something that is sad,
 Speak how I fell.—I have done ; and God forgive
 me ! [*Exeunt BUCKINGHAM and Train.*]

1 *Gent.* O, this is full of pity !—Sir, it calls,
 I fear, too many curses on their heads,
 That were the authors.

2 *Gent.* If the duke be guiltless,
 Tis full of woe : yet I can give you inkling
 Of an ensuing evil, if it fall,
 Greater than this.

1 *Gent.* Good angels keep it from us !
 Where may it be ? You do not doubt my faith, sir ?

2 *Gent.* This secret is so weighty, 'twill require
 A strong faith^o to conceal it.

^o — strong faith —] Is great fidelity.

1 *Gent.* Let me have it ;
I do not talk much.

2 *Gent.* I am confident ;
You shall, sir : Did you not of late days hear
A buzzing, of a separation
Between the king and Katharine ?

1 *Gent.* Yes, but it held not :
For when the king once heard it, out of anger
He sent command to the lord mayor, straight
To stop the rumour, and allay those tongues
That durst disperse it.

2 *Gent.* But that slander, sir,
Is found a truth now : for it grows again
Fresher than e'er it was ; and held for certain,
The king will venture at it. Either the cardinal,
Or some about him near, have, out of malice
To the good queen, possess'd him with a scruple
That will undo her : To confirm this too,
Cardinal Campeius is arriv'd, and lately ;
As all think, for this business.

1 *Gent.* 'Tis the cardinal ;
And merely to revenge him on the emperor,
For not bestowing on him, at his asking,
The Archbishoprick of Toledo, this is purpos'd.

2 *Gent.* I think, you have hit the mark : But is't
not cruel,
That she should feel the smart of this ? The cardinal
Will have his will, and she must fall.

1 *Gent.* 'Tis woful.
We are too open here to argue this ;
Let's think in private more. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.

An Ante-chamber in the Palace.

Enter the Lord Chamberlain, reading a Letter.

Cham. My lord,—The horses your lordship sent for, with all the care I had, I saw well chosen, ridden, and furnished. They were young, and handsome; and of the best breed in the north. When they were ready to set out for London, a man of my lord cardinal's, by commission, and main power, took 'em from me; with this reason,—His master would be served before a subject, if not before the king; which stopped our mouths, sir.

I fear, he will, indeed: Well, let him have them: He will have all, I think.

Enter the Dukes of NORFOLK and SUFFOLK.

Nor. Well met, my good Lord Chamberlain.

Cham. Good day to both your graces.

Suf. How is the king employ'd?

Cham. I left him private, Full of sad thoughts and troubles.

Nor. What's the cause?

Cham. It seems, the marriage with his brother's wife

Has crept too near his conscience.

Suf. No, his conscience Has crept too near another lady.

Nor. 'Tis so;
This is the cardinal's doing, the king-cardinal:
That blind priest, like the eldest son of fortune,
Turns what he lists. The king will know him one day.

Suf. Pray God, he do! he'll never know himself else.

Nor. How holily he works in all his business!
And with what zeal! For, now he has crack'd the league

Between us and the emperor, the queen's great nephew,

He dives into the king's soul; and there scatters
Dangers, doubts, wringing of the conscience,
Fears, and despairs, and all these for his marriage:
And, out of all these to restore the king,
He counsels a divorce: a loss of her,
That, like a jewel, has hung twenty years
About his neck, yet never lost her lustre:
Of her, that loves him with that excellence
That angels love good men with; even of her
That, when the greatest stroke of fortune falls,
Will bless the king: And is not this course pious?

Cham. Heaven keep me from such counsel! 'Tis most true,

These news are every where; every tongue speaks them,

And every true heart weeps for't: All, that dare
Look into these affairs, see this main end,—

The French king's sister. Heaven will one day open
The king's eyes, that so long have slept upon
This bold bad man.

Suf. And free us from his slavery.

Nor. We had need pray,
And heartily, for our deliverance;
Or this imperious man will work us all
From princes into pages; all men's honours
Lie in one lump before him, to be fashion'd
Into what pitch he please.'

[*Into what pitch he please.*] The mass must be fashioned into pitch or height, as well as into particular form. The meaning is, that the Cardinal can, as he pleases, make high or low.

Suf. For me, my lords,
 I love him not, nor fear him; there's my creed:
 As I am made without him, so I'll stand,
 If the king please; his curses and his blessings
 Touch me alike, they are breath I not believe in.
 I knew him, and I know him; so I leave him
 To him, that made him proud, the pope.

Nor. Let's in;
 And, with some other business, put the king
 From these sad thoughts, that work too much upon
 him:

My lord, you'll bear us company?

Cham. Excuse me;
 The king hath sent me other-where: besides,
 You'll find a most unfit time to disturb him:
 Health to your lordships.

Nor. Thanks, my good lord chamberlain.
 [*Exit Lord Chamberlain.*]

NORFOLK opens a folding-door. The King is discovered sitting, and reading pensively.

Suf. How sad he looks! sure, he is much afflicted.

K. Hen. Who is there? ha?

Nor. 'Pray God, he be not angry.

K. Hen. Who's there, I say? How dare you
 thrust yourselves

Into my private meditations?

Who am I? ha?

Nor. A gracious king, that pardons all offences
 Malice ne'er meant: our breach of duty, this way,
 Is business of estate; in which, we come
 To know your royal pleasure.

K. Hen. You are too bold;
 Go to; I'll make ye know your times of business:
 Is this an hour for temporal affairs? ha?—

Enter WOLSEY and CAMPEIUS.

Who's there? my good lord cardinal?—O my
Wolsey,

The quiet of my wounded conscience,
Thou art a cure fit for a king.—You're welcome,
[*To CAMPEIUS.*

Most learned reverend sir, into our kingdom;
Use us, and it:—My good lord, have great care
I be not found a talker.² [*To WOLSEY.*

Wol. Sir, you cannot.
I would, your grace would give us but an hour
Of private conference.

K. Hen. We are busy; go.
[*To NORFOLK and SUFFOLK.*

Nor. This priest has no pride in him?
Suf. Not to speak of?
I would not be so sick though,³ for his place:
But this cannot continue. } *Aside.*

Nor. If it do,
I'll venture one heave at him.
Suf. I another. }

[*Exeunt NORFOLK and SUFFOLK.*

Wol. Your grace has given a precedent of wisdom
Above all princes, in committing freely
Your scruple to the voice of Christendom:
Who can be angry now? what envy reach you?
The Spaniard, tied by blood and favour to her,
Must now confess, if they have any goodness,
The trial just and noble. All the clerks,
I mean, the learned ones, in christian kingdoms,

² ——— have great care

I be not found a talker.] I take the meaning to be, *Let care be taken that my promise be performed, that my professions of welcome be not found empty talk.* JOHNSON.

³ — so sick though,] That is, so sick as he is proud.

Have their free voices ;⁴ Rome, the nurse of judgment,

Invited by your noble self, hath sent
One general tongue unto us, this good man,
This just and learned priest, cardinal Campeius ;
Whom, once more, I present unto your highness.

K. Hen. And, once more, in mine arms I bid
him welcome,
And thank the holy conclave for their loves ;
They have sent me such a man I would have wish'd
for.

Cam. Your grace must needs deserve all strangers'
loves,
You are so noble : To your highness' hand
I tender my commission ; by whose virtue,
(The court of Rome commanding,)—you, my lord
Cardinal of York, are join'd with me their servant,
In the impartial judging of this business.

K. Hen. Two equal men. The queen shall be
acquainted
Forthwith, for what you come :—Where's Gardiner ?

Wol. I know, your majesty has always lov'd her
So dear in heart, not to deny her that
A woman of less place might ask by law,
Scholars, allow'd freely to argue for her.

K. Hen. Ay, and the best, she shall have ; and
my favour
To him that does best ; God forbid else. Cardinal,
Pr'ythee, call Gardiner to me, my new secretary ;
I find him a fit fellow. [*Exit WOLSEY.*]

Re-enter WOLSEY, with GARDINER.

Wol. Give me your hand : much joy and favour
to you ;

⁴ *Have their free voices ;*] The construction is, have sent their free voices ; the word *sent*, which occurs in the next line, being understood here.

You are the king's now.

Gard. But to be commanded
For ever by your grace, whose hand has rais'd me.

[*Aside.*]

K. Hen. Come hither, Gardiner.

[*They converse apart.*]

Cam. My lord of York, was not one doctor Pace
In this man's place before him?

Wol. Yes, he was.

Cam. Was he not held a learned man?

Wol. Yes, surely.

Cam. Believe me, there's an ill opinion spread
then

Even of yourself, lord cardinal.

Wol. How! of me?

Cam. They will not stick to say, you envied him;
And, fearing he would rise, he was so virtuous,
Kept him a foreign man still;⁵ which so griev'd him,
That he ran mad, and died.

Wol. Heaven's peace be with him!

That's christian care enough: for living murmurers,
There's places of rebuke. He was a fool;
For he would needs be virtuous: That good fellow,
If I command him, follows my appointment;
I will have none so near else. Learn this, brother,
We live not to be grip'd by meaner persons.

K. Hen. Deliver this with modesty to the queen,
[*Exit GARDINER.*]

The most convenient place that I can think of,
For such receipt of learning, is Black-Friars;
There ye shall meet about this weighty business;—
My Wolsey, see it furnish'd.—O my lord,
Would it not grieve an able man, to leave
So sweet a bedfellow? But, conscience, conscience,—
O, 'tis a tender place, and I must leave her. [*Exeunt.*]

⁵ Kept him a foreign man still;] Kept him out of the king's
presence, employed in foreign embassies,

SCENE III.

In Ante-Chamber in the Queen's Apartments.

Enter ANNE BULLEN, and an old Lady.

Anne. Not for that neither;—Here's the pang
that pinches :
highness having liv'd so long with her : and she
good a lady, that no tongue could ever
nounce dishonour of her,—by my life,
never knew harm-doing ;—O now, after
many courses of the sun enthron'd,
growing in a majesty and pomp,—the which
leave is a thousand-fold more bitter, than
sweet at first to acquire,—after this process,
give her the avaunt!⁶ it is a pity
ould move a monster.

Old L. Hearts of most hard temper
It and lament for her.

Anne. O, God's will ! much better,
ne'er had known pomp : though it be temporal,
if that quarrel, fortune,⁷ do divorce
rom the bearer, 'tis a sufferance, panging
soul and body's severing.

Old L. Alas, poor lady !
's a stranger now again.⁸

Anne. So much the more
st pity drop upon her. Verily,
wear, 'tis better to be lowly born,
d range with humble livers in content,

To give her the avaunt !] To send her away contemptuously ;
ronounce against her a sentence of ejection.

Yet, if that quarrel, fortune,] Perhaps for quarreller.

—stranger now again.] Again an alien ; not only no lon-
queen, but no longer an Englishwoman. JOHNSON.

Than to be perk'd up in a glistering grief,
And wear a golden sorrow.

Old L. Our content
Is our best having.⁹

Anne. By my troth, and maidenhead,
I would not be a queen.

Old L. Beshrew me, I would,
And venture maidenhead for't; and so would you,
For all this spice of your hypocrisy :
You, that have so fair parts of woman on you,
Have too a woman's heart : which ever yet
Affected eminence, wealth, sovereignty ;
Which, to say sooth, are blessings : and which gifts
(Saving your mincing) the capacity
Of your soft cheveril¹ conscience would receive,
If you might please to stretch it.

Anne. Nay, good troth,—

Old L. Yes, troth, and troth,—You would not
be a queen ?

Anne. No, not for all the riches under heaven.

Old L. 'Tis strange : a three-pence bowed would
hire me,

Old as I am, to queen it : But, I pray you,
What think you of a duchess ? have you limbs
To bear that load of title ?

Anne. No, in truth.

Old L. Then you are weakly made : Pluck off²
a little ;³

I would not be a young count in your way,
For more than blushing comes to : if your back
Cannot vouchsafe this burden, 'tis too weak
Ever to get a boy.

⁹ — our best having.] That is, our best *possession*.

¹ — cheveril —] Is kid skin, soft leather.

² — Pluck off a little ; &c.] i. e. let us still further divest
preferment of its glare, let us descend yet lower, and more upon
a level with your own quality.

Anne. How you do talk !
I swear again, I would not be a queen
For all the world.

Old L. In faith, for little England
You'd venture an emballing : I myself
Would for Carnarvonshire, although there 'long'd
No more to the crown but that. Lo, who comes here ?

Enter the Lord Chamberlain.

Cham. Good morrow, ladies. What wer't worth
to know
The secret of your conference ?

Anne. My good lord,
Not your demand ; it values not your asking :
Our mistress' sorrows we were pitying.

Cham. It was a gentle business, and becoming
The action of good women : there is hope,
All will be well.

Anne. Now I pray God, amen !

Cham. You bear a gentle mind, and heavenly
blessings
Follow such creatures. That you may, fair lady,
Perceive I speak sincerely, and high note's
Ta'en of your many virtues, the king's majesty
Commends his good opinion to you, and
Does purpose honour to you no less flowing
Than marchioness of Pembroke ; to which title
A thousand pound a year, annual support,
Out of his grace he adds.

Anne. I do not know,
What kind of my obedience I should tender ;
More than my all is nothing ; nor my prayers
Are not words duly hallow'd,³ nor my wishes

³ *More than my all is nothing, &c.] More than my all is nothing, for my prayers and wishes are of no value, and yet prayers and wishes are all I have to return.*

More worth than empty vanities ; yet prayers, and wishes,

Are all I can return. 'Beseech your lordship,
Vouchsafe to speak my thanks, and my obedience,
As from a blushing handmaid, to his highness ;
Whose health, and royalty, I pray for.

Cham.

Lady,

I shall not fail to approve the fair conceit,⁴
The king hath of you.—I have perus'd her well ;

[*Aside,*

Beauty and honour in her are so mingled,
That they have caught the king: and who knows yet,
But from this lady may proceed a gem,
To lighten all this isle ?—I'll to the king,
And say, I spoke with you.

Anne.

My honour'd lord.

[*Exit Lord Chamberlain,*

Old L. Why, this it is ; see, see !

I have been begging sixteen years in court,
(Am yet a courtier beggarly,) nor could
Come pat betwixt too early and too late,
For any suit of pounds : and you, (O fate !)
A very fresh-fish here, (fye, fye upon
This compell'd fortune !) have your mouth fill'd up,
Before you open it.

Anne,

This is strange to me.

Old L. How tastes it ? is it bitter ? forty pence,
no,⁵

There was a lady once, ('tis an old story,)
That would not be a queen, that would she not,
For all the mud in Egypt :⁶—Have you heard it ?

⁴ *I shall not fail, &c.]* I shall not omit to strengthen, by my commendation, the opinion which the King has formed.

⁵ — *is it bitter? forty pence, no.]* Forty pence was, in those days, the proverbial expression of a small wager, or a small sum. Money was then reckoned by pounds, marks, and nobles.

⁶ *For all the mud in Egypt :]* The fertility of Egypt is derived from the mud and slime of the Nile.

Anne. Come, you are pleasant.

Old L. With your theme, I could
D'ermount the lark. The marchioness of Pembroke!
A thousand pounds a year! for pure respect;
No other obligation: By my life,
That promises more thousands: Honour's train
Is longer than his foreskirt. By this time,
I know, your back will bear a duchess;—Say,
Are you not stronger than you were?

Anne. Good lady,
Make yourself mirth with your particular fancy,
And leave me out on't. 'Would I had no being,
If this salute my blood a jot; it faints me,
To think what follows.

The qucen is comfortless, and we forgetful
In our long absence: Pray, do not deliver
What here you have heard, to her.

Old L. What do you think me?
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

A Hall in Black-fryars.

*Trumpets, Sennet,¹ and Cornets. Enter Two Ver-
gers, with short Silver Wands; next them, Two
Scribes, in the Habits of Doctors; after them, the
Archbishop of Canterbury alone; after him, the
Bishops of Lincoln, Ely, Rochester, and Saint
Asaph; next them, with some small distance, fol-
lows a Gentleman bearing the Purse, with the Great
Seal, and a Cardinal's Hat; then two Priests, bear-
ing each a Silver Cross; then a Gentleman-Usher*

¹ — *Sennet,*] Dr. Burney (whose *General History of Mu-
sic* has been so highly and deservedly applauded) undertook to
trace the etymology, and discover the certain meaning of this
term, but without success. Mr. Malone thinks it was no more
than a flourish, or sounding.

bare-headed, accompanied with a Sergeant at Arms, bearing a Silver Mace; then two Gentlemen, bearing two great Silver Pillars ;^a after them, side by side, the two Cardinals WOLSEY and CAMPEIUS; two Noblemen with the Sword and Mace. Then enter the King and Queen, and their Trains. The King takes place under the cloth of state; the two Cardinals sit under him as judges. The Queen takes place at some distance from the King. The Bishops place themselves on each side the court, in manner of a consistory; between them, the Scribes. The Lords sit next the Bishops. The Crier and the rest of the Attendants stand in convenient order about the stage.

Wol. Whilst our commission from Rome is read
Let silence be commanded.

K. Hen. What's the need ?
It hath already publickly been read,
And on all sides the authority allow'd ;
You may then spare that time.

Wol. Be't so :—Proceed.

Scribe. Say, Henry king of England, come into
the court.

Crier. Henry king of England, &c.

K. Hen. Here.

Scribe. Say, Katharine queen of England, come
into court.

Crier. Katharine queen of England, &c.

[The Queen makes no answer, rises out of her chair, goes about the court, comes to the King, and kneels at his feet ; then speaks.]

Q. Kath. Sir, I desire you, do me right and justice ;

^a ——— pillars ;] *Pillars* were some of the ensigns of dignity carried before cardinals.

And to bestow your pity on me : for
I am a most poor woman, and a stranger,
Born out of your dominions ; having here
No judge indifferent, nor no more assurance
Of equal friendship and proceeding. Alas, sir,
In what have I offended you ? what cause
Hath my behaviour given to your displeasure,
That thus you should proceed to put me off,
And take your good grace from me ? Heaven witness,
I have been to you a true and humble wife,
At all times to your will conformable :
Ever in fear to kindle your dislike,
Yea, subject to your countenance ; glad, or sorry,
As I saw it inclin'd. When was the hour,
I ever contradicted your desire,
Or made it not mine too ? Or which of your friends
Have I not strove to love, although I knew
He were mine enemy ? what friend of mine
That had to him deriv'd your anger, did I
Continue in my liking ? nay, gave notice
He was from thence discharg'd ? Sir, call to mind
That I have been your wife, in this obedience,
Upward of twenty years, and have been blest
With many children by you : If, in the course
And process of this time, you can report,
And prove it too, against mine honour aught,
My bond to wedlock, or my love and duty,
Against your sacred person, in God's name,
Turn me away ; and let the foul'st contempt
Shut door upon me, and so give me up
To the sharpest kind of justice. Please you, sir,
The king, your father, was reputed for
A prince most prudent, of an excellent
And unmatched wit and judgment : Ferdinand,
My father, king of Spain, was reckon'd one
The wisest prince, that there had reign'd by many
A year before : It is not to be question'd

That they had gather'd a wise council to them
Of every realm, that did debate this business,
Who deem'd our marriage lawful: Wherefore I
humbly

Beseech you, sir, to spare me, till I may
Be by my friends in Spain advis'd; whose counsel
I will implore; if not; i'the name of God,
Your pleasure be fulfill'd!

Vol. You have here, lady,
(And of your choice,) these reverend fathers; men
Of singular integrity and learning,
Yea, the elect of the land, who are assemb'ed
To plead your cause: It shall be therefore bootless,
That longer you desire the court; as well
For your own quiet, as to rectify
What is unsettled in the king:

Cam. His grace
Hath spoken well, and justly: Therefore, madam,
It's fit this royal session do proceed;
And that, without delay, their arguments
Be now produc'd, and heard.

Q. Kath. Lord cardinal,→
To you I speak.

Vol. Your pleasure, madam?

Q. Kath. Sir,
I am about to weep; but, thinking that
We are a queen, (or long have dream'd so,) certain,
The daughter of a king, my drops of tears
I'll turn to sparks of fire.

Vol. Be patient yet.

Q. Kath. I will, when you are humble; nay, before,
Or God will punish me. I do believe,
Induc'd by potent circumstances, that
You are mine enemy; and make my challenge,*

* — and make my challenge,] Challenge is here a law term.
The criminal, when he refuses a juryman, says—I challenge him.
Abhor and refuse are also law terms.

I shall not be my judge : for it is you
 have blown this coal betwixt my lord and me,—
 which God's dew quench !—Therefore, I say again,
 utterly abhor, yea, from my soul,
 to use you for my judge : whom, yet once more,
 I hold my most malicious foe, and think not
 at all a friend to truth.

Vol. I do profess,
 I speak not like yourself ; who ever yet
 have stood to charity, and display'd the effects
 disposition gentle, and of wisdom
 overthrowing woman's power. Madam, you do me
 wrong :

I have no spleen against you ; nor injustice
 to you, or any : how far I have proceeded,
 how far further shall, is warranted
 a commission from the consistory,
 and the whole consistory of Rome. You charge me,
 that I have blown this coal : I do deny it :
 the king is present : if it be known to him,
 that I gainsay¹ my deed, how may he wound,
 I worthily, my falsehood ? yea, as much
 as you have done my truth. But if he know
 that I am free of your report, he knows,
 and not of your wrong. Therefore in him
 lies, to cure me : and the cure is, to
 remove these thoughts from you ; The which before
 his highness shall speak in, I do beseech
 you, gracious madam, to unthink your speaking,
 and to say so no more.

Q. Kath. My lord, my lord,
 I am a simple woman, much too weak
 to oppose your cunning. You are meek, and hum-
 ble-mouth'd ;
 I sign your place and calling,² in full seeming,

— gainsay —] i. e. deny.

You sign your place and calling,] To sign here is to show, to

With meekness and humility : but your heart
 Is cramm'd with arrogancy, spleen, and pride.
 You have, by fortune, and his highness' favours,
 Gone slightly o'er low steps ; and now are mounted
 Where powers are your retainers : and your words,
 Domesticks to you, serve your will, as't please
 Yourself pronounce their office. I must tell you,
 You tender more your person's honour, than
 Your high profession spiritual : That again
 I do refuse you for my judge ; and here,
 Before you all, appeal unto the pope,
 To bring my whole cause 'fore his holiness,
 And to be judg'd by him.

[*She curt'sies to the King, and offers to depart.*

Cam.

The queen is obstinate,

Stubborn to justice, apt to accuse it, and
 Disdainful to be try'd by it ; 'tis not well.
 She's going away.

K. Hen. Call her again.

Crier. Katharine queen of England, come into
 the court.

Grif. Madam, you are call'd back.

Q. Kath. What need you note it ? pray you, keep
 your way :

When you are call'd, return.—Now the Lord help,
 They vex me past my patience !—pray you, pass on :
 I will not tarry : no, nor ever more,
 Upon this business, my appearance make
 In any of their courts.

[*Exeunt QUEEN, GRIFFITH, and her other
 Attendants.*

K. Hen. Go thy ways, Kate :
 That man i'the world, who shall report he has
 A better wife, let him in nought be trusted,

denote. By your outward meekness and humility, you *show* that
 you are of an holy order, but, &c.

For speaking false in that : Thou art, alone,
 [If thy rare qualities, sweet gentleness,
 Thy meekness saint like, wife-like government,—
 Obeying in commanding,—and thy parts
 Sovereign and pious else, could speak thee out,)³
 The queen of earthly queens :—She is noble born ;
 And, like her true nobility, she has
 Carried herself towards me.

Wol. Most gracious sir,
 In humblest manner I require your highness,
 That it shall please you to declare, in hearing
 Of all these ears, (for where I am robb'd and bound,
 There must I be unloos'd ; although not there
 At once and fully satisfied,⁴) whether ever I
 Did broach this business to your highness ; or
 Laid any scruple in your way, which might
 Induce you to the question on't ? or ever
 Have to you,—but with thanks to God for such
 A royal lady,—spake one the least word, might
 Be to the prejudice of her present state,
 Or touch of her good person ?

K. Hen. My lord cardinal,
 I do excuse you ; yea, upon mine honour,
 I free you from't. You are not to be taught
 That you have many enemies, that know not
 Why they are so, but, like to village curs,
 Bark when their fellows do : by some of these
 The queen is put in anger. You are excus'd :
 But will you be more justified ? you ever
 Have wish'd the sleeping of this business ; never
 Desir'd it to be stirr'd ; but oft have hinder'd ; oft

³ ——— *could speak thee out,*)] had tongues capable of speaking out thy merits ; i. e. of doing them extensive justice.

⁴ ——— *although not there*

At once and fully satisfied,)] The sense, which is encumbered with words, is no more than this—I must be *loosed*, though when so *loosed*, I shall not be *satisfied* fully and *at once* ; that is, I shall not be *immediately* satisfied. JOHNSON.

The passages made toward it :^s—on my honour,
 I speak my good lord cardinal to this point,
 And thus far clear him. Now, what mov'd me to't,—
 I will be bold with time, and your attention :—
 Then mark the inducement. Thus it came ;—give
 heed to't :—

My conscience first receiv'd a tenderness,
 Scruple, and prick, on certain speeches utter'd
 By the bishop of Bayonne, then French ambassador;
 Who had been hither sent on the debating
 A marriage, 'twixt the duke of Orleans and
 Our daughter Mary : I' the progress of this business,
 Ere a determinate resolution, he
 (I mean, the bishop) did require a respite ;
 Wherein he might the king his lord advérse
 Whether our daughter were legitimate,
 Respecting this our marriage with the dowager,
 Sometimes our brother's wife. This respite shook
 The bosom of my conscience, enter'd me,
 Yea, with a splitting power, and made to tremble
 The region of my breast ; which forc'd such way,
 That many maz'd considerings did throng,
 And press'd in with this caution. First, methought,
 I stood not in the smile of heaven ; who had
 Commanded nature, that my lady's womb,
 If not conceiv'd a male child by me, should
 Do no more offices of life to't, than
 The grave does to the dead : for her male issue
 Or died where they were made, or shortly after
 This world had air'd them : Hence I took a thought,
 This was a judgment on me ; that my kingdom,
 Well worthy the best heir o'the world, should not
 Be gladdened in't by me : Then follows, that
 I weigh'd the danger which my realms stood in
 By this my issue's fail : and that gave to me

^s *The passages made toward it :*] i. e. *closed, or fastened.*

Many a groaning throe. Thus hulling in
 The wild sea⁶ of my conscience, I did steer
 Toward this remedy, whereupon we are
 Now present here together ; that's to say,
 I meant to rectify my conscience,—which
 I then did feel full sick, and yet not well,—
 By all the reverend fathers of the land,
 And doctors learn'd.—First, I began in private
 With you, my lord of Lincoln ; you remember
 How under my oppression I did reek,
 When I first mov'd you.

Lin. Very well, my liege.

K. Hen. I have spoke long ; be pleas'd yourself
 to say

How far you satisfied me.

Lin. So please your highness,
 The question did at first so stagger me,—
 Bearing a state of mighty moment in't,
 And consequence of dread,—that I committed
 The daring'st counsel which I had, to doubt ;
 And did entreat your highness to this course,
 Which you are running here.

K. Hen. I then mov'd you,
 My lord of Canterbury ; and got your leave
 To make this present summons :—Unsolicited
 I left no reverend person in this court ;
 But by particular consent proceeded,
 Under your hands and seals. Therefore, go on :
 For no dislike i'the world against the person
 Of the good queen, but the sharp thorny points
 Of my alleged reasons, drive this forward ;
 Prove but our marriage lawful, by my life,
 And kingly dignity, we are contented
 To wear our mortal state to come, with her,

⁶ — hulling in
The wild sea —] That is, floating without guidance ; tossed
 here and there.

Katharine our queen, before the primest creature
That's paragon'd o'the world.

Cam. So please your highness,
The queen being absent, 'tis a needful fitness
That we adjourn this court till further day :
Mean while must be an earnest motion
Made to the queen, to call back her appeal
She intends unto his holiness.

[*They rise to depart.*

K. Hen. I may perceive, [*Aside.*
These cardinals trifle with me : I abhor
This dilatory sloth, and tricks of Rome.
My learn'd and well-beloved servant, Cranmer,
Pr'ythee return ! with thy approach, I know,
My comfort comes along. Break up the court :
I say, set on. [*Exeunt, in manner as they entered.*

ACT III.

SCENE I. Palace at Bridewell.

A Room in the Queen's Apartment.

The Queen, and some of her Women, at work.

Q. Kath. Take thy lute, wench : my soul grows
sad with troubles ;
Sing, and disperse them, if thou canst : leave working.

SONG.

*Orpheus with his lute made trees,
And the mountain-tops, that freeze,
Bow themselves, when he did sing :
To his musick, plants, and flowers,
Ever sprung ; as sun, and showers,
There had been a lasting spring.*

*Every thing that heard him play,
 Even the billows of the sea,
 Hung their heads, and then lay by.
 In sweet musick is such art ;
 Killing care, and grief of heart,
 Fall asleep, or, hearing, die.*

Enter a Gentleman.

Q. Kath. How now ?

Gent. An't please your grace, the two great cardinals

Wait in the presence.⁷

Q. Kath. Would they speak with me ?

Gent. They will'd me say so, madam.

Q. Kath. Pray their graces
 To come near. [*Exit Gent.*] What can be their business

With me, a poor weak woman, fallen from favour ?
 I do not like their coming, now I think on't.
 They should be good men ; their affairs as righteous :
 But all hoods make not monks.

Enter WOLSEY and CAMPEIUS.

Wol. Peace to your highness !

Q. Kath. Your graces find me here part of a housewife ;

I would be all, against the worst may happen.

What are your pleasures with me, reverend lords ?

Wol. May it please you, noble madam, to withdraw

Into your private chamber, we shall give you
 The full cause of our coming.

Q. Kath. Speak it here ;
 There's nothing I have done yet, o' my conscience,

⁷ *Wait in the presence.] i. e. in the presence chamber.*

Deserves a corner : 'Would, all other women
 Could speak this with as free a soul as I do !
 My lords, I care not, (so much I am happy
 Above a number,) if my actions
 Were tried by every tongue, every eye saw them,
 Envy and base opinion set against them,⁸
 I know my life so even : If your business
 Seek me out, and that way I am wife in,
 Out with it boldly ; Truth loves open dealing.

*Wol. Tanta est ergà te mentis integritas, regina
 serenissima,—*

Q. Kath. O, good my lord, no Latin ;
 I am not such a truant since my coming,
 As not to know the language I have liv'd in :
 A strange tongue makes my cause more strange,
 suspicious ;
 Pray, speak in English : here are some will thank you,
 If you speak truth, for their poor mistress' sake ;
 Believe me, she has had much wrong : Lord cardinal,
 The willing'st sin I ever yet committed,
 May be absolv'd in English.

Wol. Noble lady,
 I am sorry, my integrity should breed,
 (And service to his majesty and you,)
 So deep suspicion, where all faith was meant.
 We come not by the way of accusation,
 To taint that honour every good tongue blesses ;
 Nor to betray you any way to sorrow ;
 You have too much, good lady : but to know
 How you stand minded in the weighty difference
 Between the king and you ; and to deliver,
 Like free and honest men, our just opinions,
 And comforts to your cause.

⁸ *Envy and base opinion set against them,]* I would be glad that
 my conduct were in some publick trial confronted with mine ene-
 mies, that envy and corrupt judgment might try their utmost
 power against me. JOHNSON.

Cam. Most honour'd madam,
 My lord of York,—out of his noble nature,
 Zeal and obedience he still bore your grace ;
 Forgetting, like a good man, your late censure
 Both of his truth and him, (which was too far,)—
 Offers, as I do, in a sign of peace,
 His service and his counsel.

Q. Kath. To betray me. [*Aside.*
 My lords, I thank you both for your good wills,
 Ye speak like honest men, (pray God, ye prove so !)
 But how to make you suddenly an answer,
 In such a point of weight, so near mine honour,
 (More near my life, I fear,) with my weak wit,
 And to such men of gravity and learning,
 In truth, I know not. I was set at work
 Among my maids ; full little, God knows, looking
 Either for such men, or such business.
 For her sake that I have been,⁹ (for I feel
 The last fit of my greatness,) good your graces,
 Let me have time, and counsel, for my cause ;
 Alas ! I am a woman, friendless, hopeless.

Vol. Madam, you wrong the king's love with
 these fears ;
 Your hopes and friends are infinite.

Q. Kath. In England,
 But little for my profit : Can you think, lords,
 Than any Englishman dare give me counsel ?
 Or be a known friend, 'gainst his highness' pleasure,
 (Though he be grown so desperate to be honest,)
 And live a subject ? Nay, forsooth, my friends,
 They that must weigh out my afflictions,
 They that my trust must grow to, live not here ;
 They are, as all my other comforts, far hence,
 In mine own country, lords.

⁹ For her sake that I have been, &c.] For the sake of that royalty which I have heretofore possessed.

Cam. I would, your grace
Would leave your griefs, and take my counsel.

Q. Kath. How, sir?

Cam. Put your main cause into the king's protection ;

He's loving, and most gracious ; 'twill be much
Both for your honour better, and your cause ;
For, if the trial of the law o'ertake you,
You'll part away disgrac'd.

Wol. He tells you rightly,

Q. Kath. Ye tell me what ye wish for both, my ruin :

Is this your christian counsel ? out upon ye !
Heaven is above all yet ; there sits a judge,
That no king can corrupt.

Cam. Your rage mistakes us,

Q. Kath. The more shame for ye ; holy men I
thought ye,

Upon my soul, two reverend cardinal virtues ;
But cardinal sins, and hollow hearts, I fear ye :
Mend them for shame, my lords. Is this your
comfort ?

The cordial that ye bring a wretched lady ?
A woman lost among ye, laugh'd at, scorn'd ?
I will not wish ye half my miseries,
I have more charity : But say, I warn'd ye ;
Take heed, for heaven's sake, take heed, lest at once
The burden of my sorrows fall upon ye.

Wol. Madam, this is a mere distraction ;
You turn the good we offer into envy.

Q. Kath. Ye turn me into nothing : Woe upon ye,
And all such false professors ! Would ye have me
(If you have any justice, any pity ;
If ye be any thing but churchmen's habits,)
Put my sick cause into his hands that hates me ?
Alas ! he has banish'd me his bed already ;
His love, too long ago : I am old, my lords,

And all the fellowship I hold now with him
Is only my obedience. What can happen
To me, above this wretchedness? all your studies
Make me a curse like this.

Cam. Your fears are worse.

Q. Kath. Have I liv'd thus long—(let me speak
myself,
Since virtue finds no friends,)—a wife, a true one?
A woman (I dare say, without vain-glory,
Never yet branded with suspicion?
Have I with all my full affections
Still met the king? lov'd him next heaven? obey'd
him?

Been, out of fondness, superstitious to him?^{*}
Almost forgot my prayers to content him?
And am I thus rewarded? 'tis not well, lords,
Bring me a constant woman to her husband,
One that ne'er dream'd a joy beyond his pleasure;
And to that woman, when she has done most,
Yet will I add an honour,—a great patience.

Wol. Madam, you wander from the good we aim
at.

Q. Kath. My lord, I dare not make myself so
guilty,
To give up willingly that noble title
Your master wed me to: nothing but death
Shall e'er divorce my dignities.

Wol. 'Pray, hear me.

Q. Kath. 'Would I had never trod this English
earth,
Or felt the flatteries that grow upon it!
Ye have angels' faces, but heaven knows your hearts.
What will become of me now, wretched lady?
I am the most unhappy woman living.—

^{*} ——— *superstitious to him?*] That is, served him with superstitious attention; done more than was required.

Alas! poor wenches, where are now your fortunes?

[*To her Women.*]

Shipwreck'd upon a kingdom, where no pity,
No friends, no hope; no kindred weep for me,
Almost, no grave allow'd me:—Like the lily,
'That once was mistress of the field, and flourish'd,
I'll hang my head, and perish.

Wol.

If your grace
Could but be brought to know, our ends are honest,
You'd feel more comfort: why should we, good lady,
Upon what cause, wrong you? alas! our places,
'The way of our profession is against it;
We are to cure such sorrows, not to sow them.
For goodness' sake, consider what you do;
How you may hurt yourself, ay, utterly
Grow from the king's acquaintance, by this carriage.
The hearts of princes kiss obedience,
So much they love it; but, to stubborn spirits,
They swell, and grow as terrible as storms.
I know, you have a gentle, noble temper,
A soul as even as a calm; Pray, think us
Those we profess, peace-makers, friends, and ser-
vants.

Cam. Madam, you'll find it so. You wrong your
virtues

With these weak women's fears. A noble spirit,
As yours was put into you, ever casts
Such doubts, as false coin, from it. The king loves
you;

Beware you lose it not: For us, if you please
To trust us in your business, we are ready
To use our utmost studies in your service.

Q. Kath. Do what ye will, my lords: And, pray,
forgive me,
If I have us'd myself² unmannerly;

² *If I have us'd myself—*] i. e. behaved myself.

You know, I am a woman, lacking wit
 To make a seemly answer to such persons.
 Pray, do my service to his majesty :
 He has my heart yet ; and shall have my prayers,
 While I shall have my life. Come, reverend fathers,
 Bestow your counsels on me : she now begs,
 That little thought, when she set footing here,
 She should have bought her dignities so dear.

[*Exeunt*,

SCENE II.

Ante-chamber to the King's Apartment.

*Enter the Duke of NORFOLK, the Duke of SUFFOLK,
 the Earl of SURREY, and the Lord Chamberlain.*

Nor. If you will now unite in your complaints
 And force them¹ with a constancy, the cardinal
 Cannot stand under them : If you omit
 The offer of this time, I cannot promise,
 But that you shall sustain more new disgraces,
 With these you bear already.

Sur. I am joyful
 To meet the least occasion, that may give me
 Remembrance of my father-in-law, the duke,
 To be reveng'd on him.

Suf. Which of the peers
 Have unctemn'd gone by him, or at least
 Strangely neglected ? when did he regard
 The stamp of nobleness in any person,
 Out of himself ?

Cham. My lords, you speak your pleasures :
 What he deserves of you and me, I know ;
 What we can do to him, (though now the time
 Gives way to us,) I much fear. If you cannot

¹ *And force them —] Force is enforce, urge.*

Bar his access to the king, never attempt
Any thing on him ; for he hath a witchcraft
Over the king in his tongue.

Nor. O, fear him not ;
His spell in that is out : the king hath found
Matter against him, that for ever mars
The honey of his language. No, he's settled,
Not to come off, in his displeasure.

Sur. Sir,
I should be glad to hear such news as this
Once every hour.

Nor. Believe it, this is true,
In the divorce, his contrary proceedings⁴
Are all unfolded ; wherein he appears,
As I could wish mine enemy.

Sur. How came
His practices to light ?

Suf. Most strangely.

Sur. O, how, how ?

Suf. The cardinal's letter to the pope miscarried,
And came to the eye o' the king : wherein was read,
How that the cardinal did entreat his holiness
To stay the judgment o' the divorce ; For if
It did take place, *I do*, quoth he, *perceive*,
My king is tangled in affection to
A creature of the queen's, lady Anne Bullen.

Sur. Has the king this ?

Suf. Believe it.

Sur. Will this work ?

Cham. The king in this perceives him, how he
coasts

And hedges, his own way. But in this point
All his tricks founder, and he brings his physick
After his patient's death ; the king already
Hath married the fair lady.

⁴ — *contrary proceedings* —] Private practices opposite to
his publick procedure.

Sur. 'Would he had!

Suf. May you be happy in your wish, my lord!
For, I profess, you have it.

Sur. Now all my joy
Trace the conjunction!⁵

Suf. My amen to't!

Nor. All men's.

Suf. There's order given for her coronation:
Marry, this is yet but young, and may be left
To some ears unrecounted.—But, my lords,
She is a gallant creature, and complete
In mind and feature: I persuade me, from her
Will fall some blessing to this land, which shall
In it be memoriz'd.⁶

Sur. But, will the king
Digest this letter of the cardinal's?
The lord forbid!

Nor. Marry, amen!

Suf. No, no;
There be more wasps that buz about his nose,
Will make this sting the sooner. Cardinal Campeius
Is stolen away to Rome; hath ta'en no leave;
Has left the cause o'the king unhandled; and
Is posted, as the agent of our cardinal,
To second all his plot. I do assure you
The king cry'd, ha! at this.

Cham. Now, God incense him,
And let him cry ha, louder!

Nor. But, my lord,
When returns Cranmer?

Suf. He is return'd, in his opinions;⁷ which

⁵ Trace the conjunction!] To trace, is to follow.

⁶ In it be memoriz'd.] To memorize is to make memorable.

⁷ He is return'd, in his opinions;] Cranmer, says Suffolk, is returned in his opinions, i. e. with the same sentiments which he entertained before he went abroad, which (sentiments) have satisfied the king, together with all the famous colleges referred to

Have satisfied the king for his divorce,
 Together with all famous colleges
 Almost in Christendom : shortly, I believe,
 His second marriage shall be publish'd, and
 Her coronation. Katharine no more
 Shall be call'd, queen ; but princess dowager,
 And widow to prince Arthur.

Nor. This same Cranmer's
 A worthy fellow, and hath ta'en much pain
 In the king's business.

Suf. He has ; and we shall see him
 For it, an archbishop.

Nor. So I hear.

Suf. 'Tis so.
 The cardinal—

Enter WOLSEY and CROMWELL.

Nor. Observe, observe, he's moody.

Wol. The packet, Cromwell, gave it you the
 king ?

Crom. To his own hand, in his bedchamber.

Wol. Look'd he o'the inside of the paper ?

Crom. Presently

He did unseal them : and the first he view'd,
 He did it with a serious mind ; a heed
 Was in his countenance : You, he bade
 Attend him here this morning.

Wol. Is he ready
 To come abroad ?

Crom. I think, by this he is.

Wol. Leave me a while.— [*Exit CROMWELL.*]
 It shall be the duchess of Alençon,
 The French king's sister : he shall marry her.—

on the occasion.—Or perhaps the passage (as Mr. Tyrwhitt observes) may mean—*He is return'd* in effect, having sent his opinions, i. e. the opinions of divines, &c. collected by him.

Anne Bullen ! No ; I'll no Anne Bullens for him :
There is more in it than fair visage.—Bullen !
No, we'll no Bullens.—Speedily I wish
To hear from Rome.—The marchioness of Pem
broke !

Nor. He's discontented.

Suf. May be, he hears the king
Does whet his anger to him.

Sur. Sharp enough,
Lord, for thy justice !

Wol. The late queen's gentlewoman ; a knight's
daughter,
To be her mistress' mistress ! the queen's queen !—
This candle burns not clear : 'tis I must snuff it ;
Then, out it goes.—What though I know her vir-
tuous,

And well deserving ? yet I know her for
A spleeny Lutheran ; and not wholesome to
Our cause, that she should lie i'the bosom of
Our hard-rul'd king. Again, there is sprung up
An heretick, an arch one, Cranmer ; one
Hath crawl'd into the favour of the king,
And is his oracle.

Nor. He is vex'd at something.

Suf. I would, 'twere something that would fret
the string,
The master-cord of his heart !

Enter the King, reading a Schedule ; and Lovell.

Suf. The king, the king.

K. Hen. What piles of wealth hath he accumu-
lated

To his own portion ! and what expence by the hour
Seems to flow from him ! How, i'the name of thrift,
Does he rake this together !—Now, my lords ;
Saw you the cardinal ?

Nor. My lord, we have

Stood here observing him : Some strange commotion
 Is in his brain : he bites his lip, and starts ;
 Stops on a sudden, looks upon the ground,
 Then, lays his finger on his temple ; straight,
 Springs out into fast gait ; then, stops again,
 Strikes his breast hard ; and anon, he casts
 His eye against the moon : in most strange postures
 We have seen him set himself.

K. Hen. It may well be ;
 There is a mutiny in his mind. This morning
 Papers of state he sent me to peruse,
 As I requir'd ; And, wot you, what I found
 There ; on my conscience, put unwittingly ?
 Forsooth, an inventory, thus importing,—
 The several parcels of his plate, his treasure,
 Rich stuffs, and ornaments of household ; which
 I find at such proud rate, that it out-speaks
 Possession of a subject.

Nor. It's heaven's will ;
 Some spirit put this paper in the packet,
 To bless your eye withal.

K. Hen. If we did think
 His contemplation were above the earth,
 And fix'd on spiritual object, he should still
 Dwell in his musings : but, I am afraid,
 His thinkings are below the moon, not worth
 His serious considering.

[*He takes his seat, and whispers* LOVELL,
who goes to WOLSEY.

Wol. Heaven forgive me !
 Ever God bless your highness !

K. Hen. Good, my lord,
 You are full of heavenly stuff, and bear the inventory
 Of your best graces in your mind ; the which
 You were now running o'er ; you have scarce time
 To steal from spiritual leisure a brief span,
 To keep your earthly audit : Sure, in that

I deem you an ill husband : and am glad
To have you therein my companion.

Wol.

Sir,

For holy offices I have a time ; a time
To think upon the part of business, which
I bear i'the state ; and nature does require
Her times of preservation, which, perforce,
I her frail son, amongst my brethren mortal,
Must give my tendance to.

K. Hen.

You have said well.

Wol. And ever may your highness yoke together,
As I will lend you cause, my doing well
With my well-saying !

K. Hen.

'Tis well said again ;

And 'tis a kind of good deed, to say well :
And yet words are no deeds. My father lov'd you :
He said, he did ; and with his deed did crown
His word upon you. Since I had my office,
I have kept you next my heart ; have not alone
Employ'd you where high profits might come home,
But par'd my present havings, to bestow
My bounties upon you.

Wol.

What should this mean ?

Sur. The Lord increase this business ! [*Aside.*

K. Hen.

Have I not made you

The prime man of the state ? I pray you, tell me,
If what I now pronounce, you have found true :
And, if you may confess it, say withal,
If you are bound to us, or no. What say you ?

Wol. My sovereign, I confess, your royal graces,
Shower'd on me daily, have been more, than could
My studied purposes requite ; which went
Beyond all man's endeavours :—my endeavours
Have ever come too short of my desires,
Yet, fil'd with my abilities :^a Mine own ends

^a Yet fil'd with my abilities :] My endeavours, though less

Have been mine so, that evermore they pointed
 To the good of your most sacred person, and
 The profit of the state. For your great graces
 Heap'd upon me, poor undeserver, I
 Can nothing render but allegiant thanks ;
 My prayers to heaven for you ; my loyalty,
 Which ever has, and ever shall be growing,
 Till death, that winter, kill it.

K. Hen.

Fairly answer'd ;

A loyal and obedient subject is
 Therein illustrated : The honour of it
 Does pay the act of it ; as, i'the contrary,
 The foulness is the punishment. I presume
 That, as my hand has open'd bounty to you,
 My heart dropp'd love, my power rain'd honour, more
 On you, than any ; so your hand, and heart,
 Your brain, and every function of your power,
 Should, notwithstanding that your bond of duty,⁹
 As 'twere in love's particular, be more
 To me, your friend, than any.

Wol.

I do profess,

That for your highness' good I ever labour'd
 More than mine own ; that am, have, and will be.¹
 Though all the world should crack their duty to you,
 And throw it from their soul ; though perils did
 Abound, as thick as thought could make them, and
 Appear in forms more horrid ; yet my duty,
 As doth a rock against the chiding flood,²
 Should the approach of this wild river break,

than my desires, have *fil'd*, that is, have gone an equal pace with
 my abilities.

⁹ — *notwithstanding that your bond of duty,*] Besides the
 general bond of duty, by which you are obliged to *be a loyal and
 obedient subject*, you owe a *particular* devotion of yourself to me,
 as your *particular* benefactor.

¹ — *that am, have, and will be.*] Perhaps the meaning is,
that, or, such a man, I am, have been, and will ever be.

² *against the chiding flood,*] i. e. the *resounding* flood.

And stand unshaken yours.

K. Hen. 'Tis nobly spoken :
Take notice, lords, he has a loyal breast,
For you have seen him open't.—Read o'er this ;
[*Giving him Papers.*]

And, after, this : and then to breakfast, with
What appetite you have.

[*Exit King, frowning upon Cardinal WOLSEY:
the Nobles throng after him, smiling, and
whispering.*]

Wol. What should this mean ?
What sudden anger's this ? how have I reap'd it ?
He parted frowning from me, as if ruin
Leap'd from his eyes : So looks the chafed lion
Upon the daring huntsman that has gall'd him ;
Then makes him nothing. I must read this paper ;
I fear, the story of his anger.—'Tis so ;
This paper has undone me :—'Tis the account
Of all that world of wealth I have drawn together
For mine own ends ; indeed, to gain the popedom,
And fee my friends in Rome. O negligence,
Fit for a fool to fall by ! What cross devil
Made me put this main secret in the packet
I sent the king ? Is there no way to cure this ?
No new device to beat this from his brains ?
I know, 'twill stir him strongly ; Yet I know
A way, if it take right, in spite of fortune
Will bring me off again. What's this—*To the Pope ?*
The letter, as I live, with all the business
I writ to his holiness. Nay then, farewell !
I have touch'd the highest point of all my greatness :
And, from that full meridian of my glory,
I haste now to my setting. I shall fall
Like a bright exhalation in the evening,
And no man see me more.

Re-enter the Dukes of NORFOLK and SUFFOLK, the Earl of SURREY, and the Lord Chamberlain.

Nor. Hear the king's pleasure, cardinal: who commands you

To render up the great seal presently
Into our hands; and to confine yourself
To Asher-house,³ my lord of Winchester's,⁴
Till you hear further from his highness.

Wol.

Stay,

Where's your commission, lords? words cannot carry
Authority so weighty.

Suf.

Who dare cross them?

Bearing the king's will from his mouth expressly?

Wol. Till I find more than will, or words, to do it,
(I mean, your malice,) know, officious lords,
I dare, and must deny it. Now I feel
Of what coarse metal ye are moulded,—envy.
How eagerly ye follow my disgraces,
As if it fed ye? and how sleek and wanton
Ye appear in every thing may bring my ruin!
Follow your envious courses, men of malice;
You have christian warrant for them, and, no doubt,
In time will find their fit rewards. That seal,
You ask with such a violence, the king,
(Mine, and your master,) with his own hand gave me:
Bade me enjoy-it, with the place and honours,
During my life, and, to confirm his goodness,
Tied it by letters patents: Now, who'll take it?

Sur. The king, that gave it.

Wol.

It must be himself then.

³ To Asher-house,] *Asher* was the ancient name of *Esher*.

⁴ — my lord of Winchester's,] Shakspeare forgot that *Wolsey* was himself bishop of Winchester, unless he meant to say, you must confine yourself to that house which you possess as Bishop of Winchester. *Asher*, near Hampton-Court, was one of the houses belonging to that bishoprick.

Sur. Thou art a proud traitor, priest.

Wol. Proud lord, thou liest ;
Within these forty hours Surrey durst better
Have burnt that tongue, than said so.

Sur. Thy ambition,
Thou scarlet sin, robb'd this bewailing land
Of noble Buckingham, my father-in-law :
The heads of all thy brother cardinals,
(With thee, and all thy best parts bound together,)
Weigh'd not a hair of his. Plague of your policy !
You sent me deputy for Ireland ;
Far from his succour, from the king, from all
That might have mercy on the fault thou gav'st him ;
Whilst your great goodness out of holy pity,
Absolv'd him with an axe.

Wol. This, and all else
This talking lord can lay upon my credit,
I answer, is most false. The duke by law
Found his deserts : how innocent I was
From any private malice in his end,
His noble jury and foul cause can witness.
If I lov'd many words, lord, I should tell you,
You have as little modesty as honour ;
That I, in the way of loyalty and truth
Toward the king, my ever royal master,
Dare mate a sounder man than Surrey can be,
And all that love his follies.

Sur. By my soul,
Your long coat, priest, protects you ; thou should'st
feel
My sword i'the life-blood of thee else.—My lords,
Can ye endure to hear this arrogance ?
And from this fellow ? If we live thus tamely,
To be thus jaded^s by a piece of scarlet,

^s *To be thus jaded* —] To be abused and ill treated, like a worthless horse : or perhaps to be ridden by a priest ;—to have him mounted above us.

Farewell nobility ; let his grace go forward,
And dare us with his cap, like larks.⁶

Wol.

All goodness

Is poison to my stomach.

Sur.

Yes, that goodness

Of gleaning all the land's wealth into one,
Into your own hands, cardinal, by extortion ;
The goodness of your intercepted packets,
You writ to the pope, against the king: your goodness,
Since you provoke me, shall be most notorious.—
My lord of Norfolk, as you are truly noble,
As you respect the common good, the state
Of our despis'd nobility, our issues,
Who, if he live, will scarce be gentlemen,—
Produce the grand sum of his sins, the articles
Collected from his life :—I'll startle you
Worse than the sacring bell,⁷ when the brown wench
Lay kissing in your arms, lord cardinal.

Wol. How much, methinks, I could despise this
man,

But that I am bound in charity against it !

Nor. Those articles, my lord, are in the king's
hand :

But, thus much, they are foul ones.

Wol.

So much fairer,

And spotless, shall mine innocence arise,
When the king knows my truth.

Sur.

This cannot save you :

I thank my memory, I yet remember

⁶ *And dare us with his cap, like larks.*] It is well known that the hat of a cardinal is scarlet ; and that one of the methods of *daring* larks was by small mirrors fastened on scarlet cloth, which engaged the attention of these birds while the fowler drew his net over them.

⁷ *Worse than the sacring bell,*] The little bell which is rung to give notice of the *Host* approaching when it is carried in procession, as also in other offices of the Romish church, is called the *sacring* or *consecration* bell : from the French word, *sacrer*.

Some of these articles ; and out they shall.
Now, if you can blush, and cry guilty, cardinal,
You'll show a little honesty.

Wol. Speak on, sir ;
I dare your worst objections : if I blush,
It is, to see a nobleman want manners.

Sur. I'd rather want those, than my head. Have
at you.

First, that, without the king's assent, or knowledge,
You wrought to be a legate ; by which power
You maim'd the jurisdiction of all bishops.

Nor. Then, that, in all you writ to Rome, or else
To foreign princes, *Ego et Rex meus*
Was still inscrib'd ; in which you brought the king
To be your servant.

Suf. Then, that, without the knowledge
Either of king or council, when you went
Ambassador to the emperor, you made bold
To carry into Flanders the great seal.

Sur. Item, you sent a large commission
To Gregory de Cassalis, to conclude,
Without the king's will, or the state's allowance,
A league between his highness and Ferrara.

Suf. That, out of mere ambition, you have caus'd
Your holy hat to be stamp'd on the king's coin.*

Sur. Then, that you have sent innumerable sub-
stance,
(By what means got, I leave to your own conscience,)
To furnish Rome, and to prepare the ways
You have for dignities ; to the mere undoing⁹
Of all the kingdom. Many more there are ;

* *Your holy hat to be stamp'd on the king's coin.*] This was certainly one of the articles exhibited against Wolsey, but rather with a view to swell the catalogue, than from any serious cause of accusation ; inasmuch as the Archbishops Cranmer, Bainbrigge, and Warham, were indulged with the same privilege.

⁹ — to the mere undoing —] *Mere* is absolute.

Which, since they are of you, and odious,
I will not taint my mouth with.

Cham.

O my lord,

Press not a falling man too far; 'tis virtue:
His faults lie open to the laws; let them,
Not you, correct him. My heart weeps to see him
So little of his great self.

Sur.

I forgive him.

Suf. Lord cardinal, the king's further pleasure
is,—

Because all those things, you have done of late
By your power legatine within this kingdom,
Fall into the compass of a *præmunire*,¹—
That therefore such a writ be sued against you;
To forfeit all your goods, lands, tenements,
Chattels, and whatsoever, and to be
Out of the king's protection:—This is my charge.

Nor. And so we'll leave you to your meditations
How to live better. For your stubborn answer,
About the giving back the great seal to us,
The king shall know it, and, no doubt, shall thank
you.

So fare you well, my little good lord cardinal.

[*Exeunt all but WOLSEY.*

Wol. So farewell to the little good you bear me.
Farewell, a long farewell, to all my greatness!
This is the state of man; To-day he puts forth
The tender leaves of hope, to-morrow blossoms,
And bears his blushing honours thick upon him:
The third day, comes a frost, a killing frost;
And,—when he thinks, good easy man, full surely
His greatness is a ripening,—nips his root,
And then he falls, as I do. I have ventur'd,
Like little wanton boys that swim on bladders,

¹ — of a *præmunire*,] It is almost unnecessary to observe
that *præmunire* is a barbarous word used instead of *præmonere*.

This many summers in a sea of glory ;
 But far beyond my depth : my high-blown pride
 At length broke under me ; and now has left me,
 Weary, and old with service, to the mercy
 Of a rude stream, that must for ever hide me.
 Vain pomp, and glory of this world, I hate ye ;
 I feel my heart new open'd : O, how wretched
 Is that poor man, that hangs on princes' favours !
 There is, betwixt that smile we would aspire to,
 That sweet aspect of princes, and their ruin,²
 More pangs and fears than wars or women have ;
 And when he falls, he falls like Lucifer,
 Never to hope again.—

Enter CROMWELL, amazedly.

Why, how now, Cromwell ?

Crom. I have no power to speak, sir.

Wol.

What, amaz'd

At my misfortunes ? can thy spirit wonder,
 A great man should decline ? Nay, an you weep,
 I am fallen indeed.

Crom. How does your grace ?

Wol.

Why, well ;

Never so truly happy, my good Cromwell.
 I know myself now ; and I feel within me
 A peace above all earthly dignities,
 A still and quiet conscience. The king has cur'd me,
 I humbly thank his grace ; and from these shoulders,
 These ruin'd pillars, out of pity, taken
 A load would sink a navy, too much honour :
 O, 'tis a burden, Cromwell, 'tis a burden,
 Too heavy for a man that hopes for heaven.

Crom. I am glad, your grace has made that right
 use of it.

² — and their ruin,] *Their ruin* is their displeasure, producing the downfall and *ruin* of him on whom it lights.

Wol. I hope, I have: I am able now, methinks,
 (Out of a fortitude of soul I feel,)
 To endure more miseries, and greater far,
 Than my weak-hearted enemies dare offer.
 What news abroad?

Crom. The heaviest, and the worst,
 Is your displeasure with the king.

Wol. God bless him!

Crom. The next is, that sir Thomas More is
 chosen

Lord chancellor in your place.

Wol. That's somewhat sudden:
 But he's a learned man. May he continue
 Long in his highness' favour, and do justice
 For truth's sake, and his conscience; that his bones,
 When he has run his course, and sleeps in blessings,
 May have a tomb of orphan's tears wept on 'em!
 What more?

Crom. That Cranmer is return'd with welcome,
 Install'd lord archbishop of Canterbury.

Wol. That's news indeed.

Crom. Last, that the lady Anne,
 Whom the king hath in secrecy long married,
 This day was view'd in open,³ as his queen,
 Going to chapel; and the voice is now
 Only about her coronation.

Wol. There was the weight that pull'd me down.

O Cromwell,

The king has gone beyond me, all my glories
 In that one woman I have lost for ever:
 No sun shall ever usher forth mine honours,
 Or gild again the noble troops that waited
 Upon my smiles. Go, get thee from me, Cromwell;
 I am a poor fallen man, unworthy now
 To be thy lord and master: Seek the king;

³ — in open,] i. e. in a place exposed on all sides to view.

That sun, I pray, may never set ! I have told him
 What, and how true thou art : he will advance thee ;
 Some little memory of me will stir him,
 (I know his noble nature,) not to let
 Thy hopeful service perish too : Good Cromwell,
 Neglect him not ; make use⁴ now, and provide
 For thine own future safety.

Crom. O my lord,
 Must I then leave you ? must I needs forego
 So good, so noble, and so true a master ?
 Bear witness, all that have not hearts of iron,
 With what a sorrow Cromwell leaves his lord.—
 The king shall have my service ; but my prayers
 For ever, and for ever, shall be yours.

Wol. Cromwell, I did not think to shed a tear
 In all my miseries ; but thou hast forc'd me
 Out of thy honest truth to play the woman.
 Let's dry our eyes : and thus far hear me, Cromwell ;
 And,—when I am forgotten, as I shall be ;
 And sleep in dull cold marble, where no mention
 Of me more must be heard of,—say, I taught thee :
 Say, Wolsey,—that once trod the ways of glory,
 And sounded all the depths and shoals of honour,—
 Found thee a way, out of his wreck, to rise in ;
 A sure and safe one, though thy master miss'd it.
 Mark but my fall, and that that ruin'd me.
 Cromwell, I charge thee, fling away ambition ;
 By that sin fell the angels ; how can man then,
 The image of his Maker, hope to win by't ?
 Love thyself last : cherish those hearts that hate
 thee ;

Corruption wins not more than honesty.
 Still in thy right hand carry gen le peace,
 To silence envious tongues. Be just, and fear not :
 Let all the ends, thou aim'st at, be thy country's,

⁴ — make use —] i. e. make interest.

Thy God's, and truth's; then if thou fall'st, O
 Cromwell,
 Thou fall'st a blessed martyr. Serve the king;
 And,—Pr'ythee, lead me in:
 There take an inventory of all I have,
 To the last penny; 'tis the king's: my robe,
 And my integrity to heaven, is all
 I dare now call mine own. O Cromwell, Cromwell,
 Had I but serv'd my God with half the zeal⁵
 I serv'd my king, he would not in mine age
 Have left me naked to mine enemies.

Crom. Good sir, have patience.

Wol. So I have. Farewell
 The hopes of court! my hopes in heaven do dwell.
 [*Exeunt.*]

ACT IV.

SCENE I. A Street in Westminster.

Enter Two Gentlemen, meeting.

1 *Gent.* You are well met once again.

2 *Gent.* And so are you.

1 *Gent.* You come to take your stand here, and
 behold

The lady Anne pass from her coronation?

2 *Gent.* 'Tis all my business. At our last en-
 counter,

The duke of Buckingham came from his trial.

⁵ *Had I but serv'd my God, &c.]* This sentence was really uttered by Wolsey. But it was a strange sentence for him to utter, who was disgraced for the basest treachery to his King in the affair of the divorce: but it shows how naturally men endeavour to palliate their crimes even to themselves.

1 *Gent.* 'Tis very true: but that time offer'd
sorrow;

This, general joy.

2 *Gent.* 'Tis well: The citizens,
I am sure, have shown at full their royal minds;
As, let them have their rights, they are ever forward
In celebration of this day⁶ with shows,
Pageants, and sights of honour.

1 *Gent.* Never greater,
Nor, I'll assure you, better taken, sir.

2 *Gent.* May I be bold to ask what that contains,
That paper in your hand?

1 *Gent.* Yes; 'tis the list
Of those, that claim their offices this day,
By custom of the coronation.

The duke of Suffolk is the first, and claims
To be high steward; next, the duke of Norfolk,
He to be earl marshal: you may read the rest.

2 *Gent.* I thank you, sir; had I not known those
customs,

I should have been beholden to your paper.
But, I beseech you, what's become of Katharine,
The princess dowager? how goes her business?

1 *Gent.* That I can tell you too. The archbishop
Of Canterbury, accompanied with other
Learned and reverend fathers of his order,
Held a late court at Dunstable, six miles off
From Amptill, where the princess lay; to which
She oft was cited by them, but appear'd not:
And, to be short, for not appearance, and
The king's late scruple, by the main assent
Of all these learned men she was divorc'd,
And the late marriage⁷ made of none effect:
Since which, she was removed to Kimbolton,

⁶ — this day —] i. e. *such a day as this*, a coronation day.

⁷ — the late marriage —] i. e. the marriage *lately* considered as a valid one.

Where she remains now, sick.

2 *Gent.*

Alas, good lady!—

[*Trumpets.*

The trumpets sound: stand close, the queen is coming.

THE ORDER OF THE PROCESSION.

A lively flourish of Trumpets : then, enter

1. *Two Judges.*
2. *Lord Chancellor, with the purse and mace before him.*
3. *Choristers singing.* [Musick.
4. *Mayor of London bearing the mace. Then Garter, in his coat of arms, and, on his head, a gilt copper crown.*
5. *Marquis Dorset, bearing a sceptre of gold, on his head a demi-coronal of gold. With him, the Earl of Surrey, bearing the rod of silver with the dove, crowned with an earl's coronet. Collars of SS.*
6. *Duke of Suffolk, in his robe of estate, his coronet on his head, bearing a long white wand, as high-steward. With him, the Duke of Norfolk, with the rod of marshalship, a coronet on his head. Collars of SS.*
7. *A canopy borne by four of the Cinque-ports; under it, the Queen in her robe; in her hair richly adorned with pearl, crowned. On each side of her, the Bishops of London and Winchester.*
8. *The old Duchess of Norfolk, in a coronal of gold, wrought with flowers, bearing the Queen's train.*
9. *Certain Ladies or Countesses, with plain circlets of gold without flowers.*

2 *Gent.* A royal train, believe me.—These I know;—

Who's that, that bears the scepter?

1 *Gent.* Marquis Dorset:

And that the earl of Surrey, with the rod.

2 *Gent.* A bold brave gentleman: And that should be

The duke of Suffolk.

1 *Gent.* 'Tis the same; high-steward.

2 *Gent.* And that my lord of Norfolk?

1 *Gent.* Yes.

2 *Gent.* Heaven bless thee!

[*Looking on the Queen.*]

Thou hast the sweetest face I ever look'd on.—

Sir, as I have a soul, she is an angel;

Our king has all the Indies in his arms,

And more, and richer, when he strains that lady:

I cannot blame his conscience.

1 *Gent.* They, that bear

The cloth of honour over her, are four barons

Of the Cinque-ports.

2 *Gent.* Those men are happy; and so are all,
are near her.

I take it, she that carries up the train,

Is that old noble lady, duchess of Norfolk.

1 *Gent.* It is; and all the rest are countesses.

2 *Gent.* Their coronets say so. These are stars,
indeed;

And, sometimes, falling ones.

1 *Gent.* No more of that.

[*Exit Procession, with a great flourish of Trumpets.*]

Enter a third Gentleman.

God save you, sir! Where have you been broiling?

3 *Gent.* Among the crowd i'the abbey; where a
finger

Could not be wedg'd in more ; and I am stifled
With the mere rankness of their joy.

2 *Gent.*

You saw

The ceremony ?

3 *Gent.*

That I did.

1 *Gent.*

How was it ?

3 *Gent.* Well worth the seeing.

2 *Gent.*

Good sir, speak it to us.

3 *Gent.* As well as I am able. The rich stream
Of lords, and ladies, having brought the queen
To a prepar'd place in the choir, fell off
A distance from her ; while her grace sat down
To rest a while, some half an hour, or so,
In a rich chair of state, opposing freely
The beauty of her person to the people.
Believe me, sir, she is the goodliest woman
That ever lay by man : which when the people
Had the full view of, such a noise arose
As the shrouds make at sea in a stiff tempest,
As loud, and to as many tunes : hats, cloaks,
(Doublets, I think,) flew up ; and had their faces
Been loose, this day they had been lost. Such joy
I never saw before. Great-bellied women,
That had not half a week to go, like rams^a
In the old time of war, would shake the press,
And make them reel before them. No man living
Could say, *This is my wife*, there ; all were woven
So strangely in one piece.

2 *Gent.*

But, 'pray, what follow'd ?

3 *Gent.* At length her grace rose, and with modest paces

Came to the altar : where she kneel'd, and, saint-like,
Cast her fair eyes to heaven, and pray'd devoutly.
Then rose again, and bow'd her to the people :
When by the archbishop of Canterbury

^a — like rams —] That is, like battering rams.

She had all the royal makings of a queen ;
 As holy oil, Edward Confessor's crown,
 The rod, and bird of peace, and all such emblems
 Laid nobly on her ; which perform'd, the choir,
 With all the choicest musick of the kingdom,
 Together sung *Te Deum*. So she parted,
 And with the same full state pac'd back again
 To York-place, where the feast is held.

1 *Gent.* Sir, you

Must no more call it York-place, that is past :
 For, since the cardinal fell, that title's lost ;
 'Tis now the king's, and call'd—Whitehall.

3 *Gent.* I know it ;

But 'tis so lately alter'd, that the old name
 Is fresh about me.

2 *Gent.* What two reverend bishops

Were those that went on each side of the queen ?

3 *Gent.* Stokesly and Gardiner ; the one, of
 Winchester,

(Newly preferr'd from the king's secretary,)
 The other, London.

2 *Gent.* He of Winchester

Is held no great good lover of the archbishop's,
 The virtuous Cranmer.

3 *Gent.* All the land knows that :

However, yet there's no great breach ; when it
 comes,

Cranmer will find a friend will not shrink from him.

2 *Gent.* Who may that be, I pray you ?

3 *Gent.* Thomas Cromwell ;

A man in much esteem with the king, and truly

A worthy friend.—The king

Has made him master o'the jewel-house,

And one, already, of the privy-council.

2 *Gent.* He will deserve more.

3 *Gent.* Yes, without all doubt.

Come, gentlemen, ye shall go my way, which

Is to the court, and there ye shall be my guests;
 Something I can command. As I walk thither,
 I'll tell ye more.

Both. You may command us, sir.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.⁹

Kimbolton.

*Enter KATHARINE, Dowager, sick ; led between
 GRIFFITH and PATIENCE.*

Grif. How does your grace?

Kath. O, Griffith, sick to death:
 My legs, like loaden branches, bow to the earth,
 Willing to leave their burden : Reach a chair ;—
 So,—now, methinks, I feel a little ease.
 Didst thou not tell me, Griffith, as thou led'st me,
 That the great child of honour, cardinal Wolsey,
 Was dead?

Grif. Yes, madam ; but, I think, your grace,
 Out of the pain you suffer'd, gave no ear to't.

Kath. Pr'ythee, good Griffith, tell me how he
 died :

If well, he stepp'd before me, happily,¹
 For my example.

Grif. Well, the voice goes, madam :
 For after the stout earl Northumberland
 Arrested him at York, and brought him forward

⁹ *Scene II.*] This scene is above any other part of Shakspeare's tragedies, and perhaps above any scene of any other poet, tender and pathetick, without gods, or furies, or poisons, or precipices, without the help of romantick circumstances, without improbable sallies of poetical lamentation, and without any throes of tumultuous misery. JOHNSON.

¹ — he stepp'd before me, happily,
For my example.] *Happily* means on this occasion—*fortunately.*

(As a man sorely tainted,) to his answer,
He fell sick suddenly, and grew so ill,
He could not sit his mule.

Kath. Alas, poor man!

Grif. At last, with easy roads,² he came to
Leicester,

Lodg'd in the abbey; where the reverend abbot,
With all his convent, honourably receiv'd him;
To whom he gave these words,—*O father abbot,*
An old man, broken with the storms of state,
Is come to lay his weary bones among ye;
Give him a little earth for charity!

So went to bed: where eagerly his sickness
Pursu'd him still; and, three nights after this,
About the hour of eight, (which he himself
Foretold, should be his last,) full of repentance,
Continual meditations, tears, and sorrows,
He gave his honours to the world again,
His blessed part to heaven, and slept in peace.

Kath. So may he rest; his faults lie gently on him!
Yet thus far, Griffith, give me leave to speak him,
And yet with charity,—He was a man
Of an unbounded stomach,³ ever ranking
Himself with princes; one, that by suggestion
Ty'd all the kingdom:⁴ simony was fair play;
His own opinion was his law: I'the presence
He would say untruths; and be ever double,
Both in his words and meaning: He was never,
But where he meant to ruin, pitiful:

² — with easy roads,] i. e. by short stages.

³ Of an unbounded stomach,] i. e. of unbounded pride, or haughtiness.

⁴ — one, that by suggestion

Ty'd all the kingdom:] i. e. he was a man of an unbounded stomach, or pride, ranking himself with princes, and by suggestion to the King and the Pope, he ty'd, i. e. limited, circumscribed, and set bounds to the liberties and properties of all persons in the kingdom.

His promises were, as he then was, mighty ;
 But his performance, as he is now, nothing.
 Of his own body he was ill, and gave
 The clergy ill example.

Grif. Noble madam,
 Men's evil manners live in brass ; their virtues
 We write in water. May it please your highness
 To hear me speak his good now ?

Kath. Yes, good Griffith ;
 I were malicious else.

Grif. This cardinal,
 Though from an humble stock, undoubtedly
 Was fashion'd to much honour. From his cradle,
 He was a scholar, and a ripe, and good one ;
 Exceeding wise, fair spoken, and persuading :
 Lofty, and sour, to them that lov'd him not ;
 But, to those men that sought him, sweet as summer.
 And though he were unsatisfied in getting,
 (Which was a sin,) yet in bestowing, madam,
 He was most princely : Ever witness for him
 Those twins of learning, that he rais'd in you,
 Ipswich, and Oxford ! one of which fell with him,
 Unwilling to outlive the good that did it ;
 The other, though unfinish'd, yet so famous,
 So excellent in art, and still so rising,
 That Christendom shall ever speak his virtue.
 His overthrow heap'd happiness upon him ;
 For then, and not till then, he felt himself,
 And found the blessedness of being little :
 And, to add greater honours to his age
 Than man could give him, he died, fearing God.

Kath. After my death I wish no other herald,
 No other speaker of my living actions,
 To keep mine honour from corruption,
 But such an honest chronicler as Griffith.
 Whom I most hated living, thou hast made me,
 With thy religious truth, and modesty,





Engraved by

Katharine, Griffiths & Patience.

Kath. *Spirits of peace, where are ye? be ye all gone?*

Printed by W. B. G. at the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

Now in his ashes honour : Peace be with him !—
 Patience, be near me still ; and set me lower :
 I have not long to trouble thee.—Good Griffith,
 Cause the musicians play me that sad note
 I nam'd my knell, whilst I sit meditating
 On that celestial harmony I go to.

Sad and solemn musick.

Grif. She is asleep : Good wench, let's sit down
 quiet,
 For fear we wake her ;—Softly, gentle Patience.

The Vision. Enter, solemnly tripping one after another, six Personages, clad in white robes, wearing on their heads garlands of bays, and golden vizards on their faces ; branches of bays, or palm, in their hands. They first congee unto her, then dance ; and, at certain changes, the first two hold a spare garland over her head ; at which, the other four make reverend court'sies ; then the two, that held the garland, deliver the same to the other next two, who observe the same order in their changes, and holding the garland over her head : which done, they deliver the same garland to the last two, who likewise observe the same order : at which, (as it were by inspiration,) she makes in her sleep signs of rejoicing, and holdeth up her hands to heaven : and so in their dancing they vanish, carrying the garland with them. The musick continues.

Kath. Spirits of peace, where are ye ? Are ye all gone ?

And leave me here in wretchedness behind ye ?

Grif. Madam, we are here.

Kath. It is not you I call for :
 Saw ye none enter, since I slept ?

Grif.

None, madam.

Kath. No? Saw you not, even now, a blessed troop

Invite me to a banquet; whose bright faces
Cast thousand beams upon me, like the sun?
They promis'd me eternal happiness;
And brought me garlands, Griffith, which I feel
I am not worthy yet to wear: I shall,
Assuredly.

Grif. I am most joyful, madam, such good dreams
Possess your fancy.

Kath. Bid the musick leave,
They are harsh and heavy to me. [*Musick ceases.*

Pat. Do you note,
How much her grace is alter'd on the sudden?
How long her face is drawn? How pale she looks,
And of an earthly cold? Mark you her eyes?

Grif. She is going, wench; pray, pray.

Pat. Heaven comfort her!

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. An't like your grace,—

Kath. You are a saucy fellow:
Deserve we no more reverence?

Grif. You are to blame,
Knowing she will not lose her wonted greatness,
To use so rude behaviour: go to, kneel.

Mess. I humbly do entreat your highness' pardon;
My haste made me unmannerly: There is staying
A gentleman, sent from the king, to see you.

Kath. Admit him entrance, Griffith: But this
fellow
Let me ne'er see again.

[*Exeunt GRIFFITH and Messenger.*

Re-enter GRIFFITH, with CAPUCIUS.

If my sight fail not,
I should be lord ambassador from the emperor,
royal nephew, and your name Capucius.

Cap. Madam, the same, your servant.

Kath. O my lord,
e times, and titles, now are alter'd strangely
th me, since first you knew me. But, I pray you,
iat is your pleasure with me?

Cap. Noble lady,
st, mine own service to your grace; the next,
e king's request that I would visit you;
io grieves much for your weakness, and by me
ids you his princely commendations,
d heartily entreats you take good comfort.

Kath. O my good lord, that comfort comes too
late;

s like a pardon after execution:
at gentle physick, given in time, had cur'd me;
t now I am past all comforts here, but prayers.
w does his highness?

Cap. Madam, in good health.

Kath. So may he ever do! and ever flourish,
hen I shall dwell with worms, and my poor name
nish'd the kingdom!—Patience, is that letter,
aus'd you write, yet sent away?

Pat. No, madam.

[*Giving it to KATHARINE.*

Kath. Sir, I most humbly pray you to deliver
is to my lord the king.

Cap. Most willing, madam.

Kath. In which I have commended to his goodness
e model of our chaste loves,⁴ his young daugh-
ter:—

the model of our chaste loves,] Model is image, or representative.

The dews of heaven fall thick in blessings on her!—
Beseeching him to give her virtuous breeding ;
(She is young, and of a noble modest nature ;
I hope, she will deserve well ;) and a little
To love her for her mother's sake, that lov'd him,
Heaven knows how dearly. My next poor petition
Is, that his noble grace would have some pity
Upon my wretched women, that so long,
Have follow'd both my fortunes faithfully :
Of which there is not one, I dare avow,
(And now I should not lie,) but will deserve,
For virtue, and true beauty of the soul,
For honesty, and decent carriage,
A right good husband, let him be a noble ;
And, sure, those men are happy that shall have them.
The last is, for my men;—they are the poorest,
But poverty could never draw them from me ;—
That they may have their wages duly paid them,
And something over to remember me by ;
If heaven had pleas'd to have given me longer life,
And able means, we had not parted thus.
These are the whole contents:—And, good my lord,
By that you love the dearest in this world,
As you wish christian peace to souls departed,
Stand these poor people's friend, and urge the king
To do me this last right.

Cap. By heaven, I will ;

Or let me lose the fashion of a man !

Kath. I thank you, honest lord. Remember me
In all humility unto his highness :
Say, his long trouble now is passing
Out of this world : tell him, in death I bless'd him,
For so I will.—Mine eyes grow dim.—Farewell,
My lord.—Griffith, farewell.—Nay, Patience,
You must not leave me yet. I must to bed ;
Call in more women.—When I am dead, good
wench,

Let me be us'd with honour ; strew me over
 With maiden flowers, that all the world may know
 I was a chaste wife to my grave : embalm me,
 Then lay me forth : although unqueen'd, yet like
 A queen, and daughter to a king, inter me.
 I can no more.— [*Exeunt, leading KATHARINE.*]

ACT V.

SCENE I. *A Gallery in the Palace.*

*Enter GARDINER, Bishop of Winchester, a Page
 with a Torch before him, met by Sir THOMAS
 LOVELL.*

Gar. It's one o'clock, boy, is't not?

Boy. It hath struck.

Gar. These should be hours for necessities,
 Not for delights ; times to repair our nature
 With comforting repose, and not for us
 To waste these times.—Good hour of night, sir
 Thomas!

Whither so late?

Lov. Came you from the king, my lord?

Gar. I did, sir Thomas ; and left him at primero^s
 With the duke of Suffolk.

Lov. I must to him too,
 Before he go to bed. I'll take my leave.

Gar. Not yet, sir Thomas Lovell. What's the
 matter?

It seems, you are in haste ; an if there be

^s — at primero —] *Primero* and *Primavista*, two games at cards, H. I. *Primera*, *Primavista*. La *Primiere*, G. prime, f. *Prime veue*. *Primum*, et *primum visum*, that is, first, and first seen : because he that can show such an order of cards first, wins the game.

No great offence belongs to't, give your friend
 Some touch of your late business :⁶ Affairs, that walk
 (As, they say, spirits do,) at midnight, have
 In them a wilder nature, than the business
 That seeks despatch by day.

Lov. My lord, I love you;
 And durst commend a secret to your ear
 Much weightier than this work. The queen's in
 labour,
 They say, in great extremity ; and fear'd,
 She'll with the labour end.

Gar. The fruit, she goes with,
 I pray for heartily ; that it may find
 Good time, and live : but for the stock, sir Thomas,
 I wish it grubb'd up now.

Lov. Methinks, I could
 Cry the amen ; and yet my conscience says
 She's a good creature, and, sweet lady, does
 Deserve our better wishes.

Gar. But, sir, sir,—
 Hear me, sir Thomas : You are a gentleman
 Of mine own way ;⁷ I know you wise, religious ;
 And, let me tell you, it will ne'er be well,—
 'Twill not, sir Thomas Lovell, take't of me,
 Till Cranmer, Cromwell, her two hands, and she,
 Sleep in their graves.

Lov. Now, sir, you speak of two
 The most remark'd i'the kingdom. As for Crom-
 well,—

Beside that of the jewel-house, he's made master
 O'the rolls, and the king's secretary ; further, sir,
 Stands in the gap and trade of more preferments,⁸

⁶ *Some touch of your late business :*] Some hint of the business that keeps you awake so late.

⁷ — *mine own way ;*] Mine own opinion in religion.

⁸ *Stands in the gap and trade of more preferments,*] Trade is the practised method, the general course.

With which the time will load him : The archbishop
 the king's hand, and tongue ; And who dare speak
 one syllable against him ?

Gar. Yes, yes, sir Thomas,
 here are that dare ; and I myself have ventur'd
 to speak my mind of him : and, indeed, this day,
 sir, (I may tell it you,) I think, I have
 incens'd the lords o'the council, that he is
 For so I know he is, they know he is,)
 a most arch heretick,⁹ a pestilence
 that does infect the land : with which they moved,
 have broken with the king ;¹ who hath so far
 given ear to our complaint, (of his great grace
 and princely care ; foreseeing those fell mischiefs
 our reasons laid before him,) he hath commanded,
 to-morrow morning to the council-board
 he be convented.² He's a rank weed, sir Thomas,
 and we must root him out. From your affairs
 hinder you too long : good night, sir Thomas.

Lov. Many good nights, my lord ; I rest your
 servant. [*Exeunt GARDINER and Page.*]

*As LOVELL is going out, enter the King, and the
 Duke of SUFFOLK.*

K. Hen. Charles, I will play no more to-night ;
 My mind's not on't, you are too hard for me.

Suf. Sir, I did never win of you before.

K. Hen. But little, Charles ;
 Nor shall not, when my fancy's on my play.—

⁹ ——— I have

Incens'd the lords o'the council, that he is, &c.

A most arch heretick,] This passage, according to the old
 elliptical mode of writing, may mean—I have incens'd the lords
 of the council, for that he is, i. e. because.

¹ — broken with the king ;] They have broken silence : told
 their minds to the king.

² *He be convented.] Convented is summoned, convened.*

Now, Lovell, from the queen what is the news?

Lov. I could not personally deliver to her
What you commanded me, but by her woman
I sent your message; who return'd her thanks
In the greatest humbleness, and desir'd your highness
Most heartily to pray for her.

K. Hen. What say'st thou? ha!
To pray for her? what, is she crying out?

Lov. So said her woman; and that her suffer-
ance made
Almost each pang a death.

K. Hen. Alas, good lady!
Suf. God safely quit her of her burden, and
With gentle travail, to the gladding of
Your highness with an heir!

K. Hen. 'Tis midnight, Charles,
Pr'ythee, to bed; and in thy prayers remember
The estate of my poor queen. Leave me alone;
For I must think of that, which company
Will not be friendly to.

Suf. I wish your highness
A quiet night, and my good mistress will
Remember in my prayers.

K. Hen. Charles, good night.—
[*Exit* SUFFOLK.]

Enter Sir ANTHONY DENNY.

Well, sir, what follows?

Den. Sir, I have brought my lord the archbishop,
As you commanded me.

K. Hen. Ha! Canterbury?

Den. Ay, my good lord.

K. Hen. 'Tis true: Where is he, Denny?

Den. He attends your highness' pleasure.

K. Hen. Bring him to us.
[*Exit* DENNY.]

Lov. This is about that which the bishop spake;
I am happily come hither. [*Aside.*]

Re-enter DENNY, with CRANMER.

K. Hen.

Avoid the gallery.

[*LOVELL seems to stay.*]

Ha!—I have said.—Be gone.

What!—

[*Exeunt LOVELL and DENNY.*]

Cran. I am fearful:—Wherefore frowns he thus?
'Tis his aspect of terror. All's not well.

K. Hen. How now, my lord? You do desire to know
Wherefore I sent for you.

Cran.

It is my duty,

'To attend your highness' pleasure.

K. Hen.

'Pray you, arise,

My good and gracious lord of Canterbury.

Come, you and I must walk a turn together;

I have news to tell you: Come, come, give me your
hand.

Ah, my good lord, I grieve at what I speak,

And am right sorry to repeat what follows:

I have, and most unwillingly, of late

I heard many grievous, I do say, my lord,

Grievous complaints of you; which, being con-
sider'd,

Have mov'd us and our council, that you shall

This morning come before us; where, I know,

You cannot with such freedom purge yourself,

But that, till further trial, in those charges

Which will require your answer, you must take

Your patience to you, and be well contented

To make your house our Tower: You a brother of
us,¹

¹ — You a brother of us, &c.] You being one of the council, it is necessary to imprison you, that the witnesses against you may not be deterred.

It fits we thus proceed, or else no witness
Would come against you.

Cran. I humbly thank your highness;
And am right glad to catch this good occasion
Most thoroughly to be winnow'd, where my chaff
And corn shall fly asunder: for, I know,
There's none stands under more calumnious tongues,
Than I myself, poor man.

K. Hen. Stand up, good Canterbury;
Thy truth, and thy integrity, is rooted
In us, thy friend: Give me thy hand, stand up;
Pr'ythee, let's walk. Now, by my holy-dame,
What manner of man are you? My lord, I look'd
You would have given me your petition, that
I should have ta'en some pains to bring together
Yourself and your accusers; and to have heard you
Without indurance,⁴ further.

Cran. Most dread liege,
The good I stand on is my truth, and honesty;
If they shall fail, I, with mine enemies,
Will triumph o'er my person; which I weigh not,⁵
Being of those virtues vacant. I fear nothing
What can be said against me.

K. Hen. Know you not how
Your state stands i'the world, with the whole world?
Your enemies
Are many, and not small; their practices
Must bear the same proportion: and not ever⁶
The justice and the truth o'the question carries
The due o'the verdict with it: At what ease
Might corrupt minds procure knaves as corrupt
To swear against you? such things have been done.

⁴ — indurance,] i. e. confinement, or perhaps, delay, procrastination.

⁵ — I weigh not,] i. e. have no value for.

⁶ — and not ever —] *Not ever* is an uncommon expression, and does not mean *never*, but *not always*.

You are potently oppos'd ; and with a malice
 Of as great size. Ween you of better luck,¹
 I mean in perjur'd witness, than your master,
 Whose minister you are, whiles here he liv'd
 Upon this naughty earth ? Go to, go to ;
 You take a precipice for no leap of danger.
 And woo your own destruction.

Cran. God, and your majesty,
 Protect mine innocence, or I fall into
 The trap is laid for me !

K. Hen. Be of good cheer ;
 They shall no more prevail, than we give way to.
 Keep comfort to you ; and this morning see
 You do appear before them ; if they shall chance,
 In charging you with matters, to commit you,
 The best persuasions to the contrary
 Fail not to use, and with what vehemency
 The occasion shall instruct you : if entreaties
 Will render you no remedy, this ring
 Deliver them, and your appeal to us
 There make before them.—Look, the good man
 weeps !

He's honest, on mine honour. God's blest mother !
 I swear, he's true-hearted ; and a soul
 None better in my kingdom.—Get you gone,
 And do as I have bid you.—[*Exit CRANMER.*] He
 has strangled
 His language in his tears.

Enter an old Lady.

Gent. [*Within.*] Come back ; What mean you ?

Lady. I'll not come back ; the tidings that I bring
 Will make my boldness manners.—Now, good angels

¹ — Ween you of better luck,] To ween is to think, to imagine. Though now obsolete, the word was common to all our ancient writers.

Fly o'er thy royal head, and shade thy person
Under their blessed wings!

K. Hen. Now, by thy looks
I guess thy message. Is the queen deliver'd?
Say, ay; and of a boy.

Lady. Ay, ay, my liege;
And of a lovely boy: The god of heaven
Both now and ever bless her!—'tis a girl,
Promises boys hereafter. Sir, your queen
Desires your visitation, and to be
Acquainted with this stranger; 'tis as like you,
As cherry is to cherry.

K. Hen. Lovell,—

Enter LOVELL.

Lov. Sir.

K. Hen. Give her an hundred marks. I'll to the
queen. [*Exit King.*

Lady. An hundred marks! By this light, I'll
have more.

An ordinary groom is for such payment.
I will have more, or scold it out of him.
Said I for this, the girl is like to him?
I will have more, or else unsay't; and now
While it is hot, I'll put it to the issue. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.

Lobby before the Council-Chamber.

Enter CRANMER; Servants, Door-Keeper, &c. attending.

Cran. I hope, I am not too late; and yet the
gentleman,
That was sent to me from the council, pray'd me

To make great haste. All fast ? what means this ?—

Hoa !

Who waits there ?—Sure, you know me ?

D. Keep.

Yes, my lord ;

But yet I cannot help you.

Cran.

Why ?

D. Keep. Your grace must wait, till you be cali'd
for.

Enter Doctor BUTTS.

Cran.

So.

Butts. This is a piece of malice. I am glad,
I came this way so happily : The king
Shall understand it presently. [*Erit BUTTS.*

Cran. [*Aside.*]

"Tis Butts,

The king's physician ; as he past along,
How earnestly he cast his eyes upon me !
Pray heaven, he sound not my disgrace ! For certain,
This is of purpose lay'd, by some that hate me,
(God turn their hearts ! I never sought their malice,)
To quench mine honour : they would shaine to
make me

Wait else at door ; a fellow counsellor,
Among boys, grooms, and lackeys. But their
pleasures
Must be fulfill'd, and I attend with patience.

Enter, at a Window above, the King and BUTTS.*

Butts. I'll show your grace the strangest sight,—

K. Hen.

What's that, Butts ?

Butts. I think, your highness saw this many a day.

* — at a window above,] The suspicious vigilance of our ancestors contrived windows which overlooked the insides of chapels, halls, kitchens, passages, &c. Some of these convenient peep-holes, may still be found in colleges, and such ancient houses as have not suffered from the reformations of modern architecture.

K. Hen. Body o'me, where is it?

Butts.

There, my lord:

The high promotion of his grace of Canterbury;
Who holds his state at door, 'mongst pursuivants,
Pages, and footboys.

K. Hen.

Ha! 'Tis he, indeed:

Is this the honour they do one another?

'Tis well, there's one above them yet. I had thought,

They had parted so much honesty among them,⁹

(At least, good manners,) as not thus to suffer

A man of his place, and so near our favour,

To dance attendance on their lordships' pleasures,

And at the door too, like a post with packets.

By holy Mary, Butts, there's knavery:

Let them alone, and draw the curtain close;¹

We shall hear more anon.—

[*Exeunt.*]

THE COUNCIL-CHAMBER.

Enter the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of SUFFOLK, Earl of SURREY, Lord Chamberlain, GARDINER, and CROMWELL. The Chancellor places himself at the upper end of the table on the left hand; a seat being left void above him, as for the Archbishop of Canterbury. The rest seat themselves in order on each side. CROMWELL at the lower end, as secretary.

Chan. Speak to the business, master secretary:
Why are we met in council?

Crom.

Please your honours,

The chief cause concerns his grace of Canterbury.

Gar. Has he had knowledge of it?

⁹ *They had parted, &c.]* We should now say—*They had shared, &c.* i. e. had so much honesty among them.

¹ — *draw the curtain close;* i. e. the curtain of the balcony, or upper stage, where the King now is.

Crom.

Yes.

Nor.

Who waits there?

D. Keep. Without, my noble lords?*Gar.*

Yes.

*D. Keep.*My lord archbishop;
And has done half an hour, to know your pleasures.*Chan.* Let him come in.*D. Keep.*

Your grace may enter now.

[*CRANMER approaches the Council-table.*]

Chan. My good lord archbishop, I am very sorry
To sit here at this present, and behold
That chair stand empty: But we all are men,
In our own natures frail; and capable
Of our flesh, few are angels:² out of which frailty,
And want of wisdom, you, that best should teach us,
Have misdeemean'd yourself, and not a little,
Toward the king first, then his laws. in filling
The whole realm, by your teaching, and your chap-
lains,

(For so we are inform'd,) with new opinions,
Divers, and dangerous; which are heresies,
And, not reform'd, may prove pernicious.

Gar. Which reformation must be sudden too,
My noble lords: for those, that tame wild horses,
Pace them not in their hands to make them gentle;
But stop their mouths with stubborn bits, and spur
them,

Till they obey the manage. If we suffer
(Out of our easiness, and childish pity
To one man's honour) this contagious sickness,
Farewell, all physick; And what follows then?
Commotions, uproars, with a general taint

² ——— and capable

Of our flesh, *few are angels*: &c.] If this passage means any thing, it may mean, *few are perfect, while they remain in their mortal capacity*; i. e. while they are capable [in a condition] of being invested with flesh.

Of the whole state : as, of late days, our neighbours,
The upper Germany,³ can dearly witness,
Yet freshly pitied in our memories.

Cran. My good lords, hitherto, in all the progress
Both of my life and office, I have labour'd,
And with no little study, that my teaching,
And the strong course of my authority,
Might go one way, and safely ; and the end
Was ever, to do well : nor is there living
(I speak it with a single heart,⁴ my lords,)
A man, that more detests, more stirs against,
Both in his private conscience, and his place,
Defacers of a publick peace, than I do.
'Pray heaven, the king may never find a heart
With less allegiance in it ! Men, that make
Envy, and crooked malice, nourishment,
Dare bite the best. I do beseech your lordships,
That, in this case of justice, my accusers,
Be what they will, may stand forth face to face,
And freely urge against me.

Suf. Nay, my lord,
That cannot be ; you are a counsellor,
And, by that virtue, no man dare accuse you.

Gar. My lord, because we have business of more
moment,
We will be short with you. 'Tis his highness'
pleasure,
And our consent, for better trial of you,
From hence you be committed to the Tower ;
Where, being but a private man again,
You shall know many dare accuse you boldly,
More than, I fear, you are provided for.

Cran. Ah, my good lord of Winchester, I thank
you,

³ *The upper Germany, &c.] Alluding to the heresy of Thomas Muntzer, which sprung up in Saxony in the years 1521 and 1522.*

⁴ *— a single heart,] A heart void of duplicity or guile.*

You are always my good friend ; if your will pass,
 I shall both find your lordship judge and juror,
 You are so merciful : I see your end,
 'Tis my undoing : Love, and meekness, lord,
 Become a churchman better than ambition ;
 Win straying souls with modesty again,
 Cast none away. That I shall clear myself,
 Lay all the weight ye can upon my patience,
 I make as little doubt, as you do conscience,
 In doing daily wrongs. I could say more,
 But reverence to your calling makes me modest.

Gar. My lord, my lord, you are a sectary,
 That's the plain truth ; your painted gloss discovers,³
 To men that understand you, words and weakness.

Crom. My lord of Winchester, you are a little,
 By your good favour, too sharp ; men so noble,
 However faulty, yet should find respect
 For what they have been : 'tis a cruelty,
 To load a falling man.

Gar. Good master secretary,
 I cry your honour mercy ; you may, worst
 Of all this table, say so.

Crom. Why, my lord ?

Gar. Do not I know you for a favourer
 Of this new sect ? ye are not sound.

Crom. Not sound ?

Gar. Not sound, I say.

Crom. 'Would you were half so honest !
 Men's prayers then would seek you, not their fears.

Gar. I shall remember this bold language.

Crom. Do.

Remember your bold life too.

Chan. This is too much ;
 Forbear, for shame, my lords.

³ — your painted gloss, &c.] Those that understand you,
 under this painted gloss, this fair outside, discover your empty
 talk and your false reasoning.

Gar. I have done,
Crom. And I.

Chan. Then thus for you, my lord,—It stands agreed,

I take it, by all voices, that forthwith
 You be convey'd to the Tower a prisoner;
 There to remain, till the king's further pleasure
 Be known unto us: Are you all agreed, lords?

All. We are.

Cran. Is there no other way of mercy,
 But I must needs to the Tower, my lords?

Gar. What other
 Would you expect? You are strangely troublesome:
 Let some o'the guard be ready there.

Enter Guard.

Cran. For me?
 Must I go like a traitor thither?

Gar. Receive him,
 And see him safe i'the Tower.

Cran. Stay, good my lords,
 I have a little yet to say. Look there, my lords;
 By virtue of that ring, I take my cause
 Out of the gripes of cruel men, and give it
 To a most noble judge, the king my master.

Cham. This is the king's ring.⁶

Sur. 'Tis no counterfeit.

⁶ *This is the king's ring.]* It seems to have been a custom, begun probably in the dark ages, before literature was generally diffused, and before the regal power experienced the restraints of law, for every monarch to have a ring, the temporary possession of which invested the holder with the same authority as the owner himself could exercise. The production of it was sufficient to suspend the execution of the law; it procured indemnity for offences committed, and imposed acquiescence and submission on whatever was done under its authority. Instances abound in the history of almost every nation.

Suf. 'Tis the right ring, by heaven : I told ye all,
When we first put this dangerous stone a rolling,
'Twould fall upon ourselves.

Nor. Do you think, my lords,
The king will suffer but the little finger
Of this man to be vex'd ?

Cham. 'Tis now too certain :
How much more is his life in value with him :
'Would I were fairly out on't.

Crom. My mind gave me,
In seeking tales, and informations,
Against this man, (whose honesty the devil
And his disciples only envy at,)
Ye blew the fire that burns ye : Now have at ye.

Enter King, frowning on them ; takes his seat.

Gar. Dread sovereign, how much are we bound
to heaven

In daily thanks, that gave us such a prince ;
Not only good and wise, but most religious :
One that, in all obedience, makes the church
The chief aim of his honour ; and, to strengthen
That holy duty, out of dear respect,
His royal self in judgment comes to hear
The cause betwixt her and this great offender.

K. Hen. You were ever good at sudden com-
mendations,

Bishop of Winchester. But know, I come not
To hear such flattery now, and in my presence ;
They are too thin and base to hide offences.
To me you cannot reach ; you play the spaniel,
And think with wagging of your tongue to win me ;
But, whatsoe'er thou tak'st me for, I am sure,
Thou hast a cruel nature, and a bloody.—
Good man, [*To CRANMER.*] sit down. Now let
me see the proudest
He, that dares most, but wag his finger at thee :

By all that's holy, he had better starve,
Than but once think his place becomes thee not.'

Sur. May it please your grace,—

K. Hen. No, sir, it does not please me.
I had thought, I had had men of some understanding
And wisdom, of my council; but I find none.
Was it discretion, lords, to let this man,
This good man, (few of you deserve that title,)
This honest man, wait like a lowsy footboy
At chamber door? and one as great as you are?
Why, what a shame was this? Did my commission
Bid ye so far forget yourselves? I gave ye
Power as he was a counsellor to try him,
Not as a groom; There's some of ye, I see,
More out of malice than integrity,
Would try him to the utmost, had ye mean;
Which ye shall never have, while I live.

Chan.

Thus far,

My most dread sovereign, may it like your grace
To let my tongue excuse all. What was purpos'd
Concerning his imprisonment, was rather
(If there be faith in men,) meant for his trial,
And fair purgation to the world, than malice;
I am sure, in me.

K. Hen. Well, well, my lords, respect him;
Take him, and use him well, he's worthy of it.
I will say thus much for him, If a prince
May be beholden to a subject, I
Am, for his love and service, so to him.
Make me no more ado, but all embrace him;
Be friends, for shame, my lords.—My lord of Can-
terbury,

I have a suit which you must not deny me;

'*Than but once think his place becomes thee not.*] Who dares
to suppose that the place or situation in which he is, is not suitable
to thee also? who supposes that thou art not as fit for the office of
a privy counsellor as he is?

That is, a fair young maid that yet wants baptism,
You must be godfather,⁸ and answer for her.

Cran. The greatest monarch now alive may
glory

In such an honour ; How may I deserve it,
That am a poor and humble subject to you ?

K. Hen. Come, come, my lord, you'd spare your
spoons ;⁹ you shall have

Two noble partners with you ; the old duchess of
Norfolk,

And lady marquiss Dorset : Will those please you ?
Once more, my lord of Winchester, I charge you,
Embrace, and love this man.

Gar. With a true heart,
And brother-love, I do it.

Cran. And let heaven
Witness, how dear I hold this confirmation.

K. Hen. Good man, those joyful tears show thy
true heart.

The common voice, I see, is verified
Of thee, which says thus, *Do my lord of Canter-*
bury

A shrewd turn, and he is your friend for ever.—

Come, lords, we trifle time away ; I long
To have this young one made a christian.

⁸ *You must be godfather,]* Our prelates formerly were often employed on the like occasions. Cranmer was godfather to Edward VI. Archbishop Warham to Henry's eldest son by Queen Katharine ; and the Bishop of Winchester to Henry himself.

⁹ *— you'd spare your spoons :*] It was the custom, long before the time of Shakspeare, for the sponsors at christenings to offer gilt spoons as a present to the child. These spoons were called *apostle spoons*, because the figures of the apostles were carved on the tops of the handles. Such as were at once opulent and generous, gave the whole twelve ; those who were either more moderately rich or liberal, escaped at the expence of the four evangelists ; or even sometimes contented themselves with presenting one spoon only, which exhibited the figure of any saint, in honour of whom the child received its name.

As I have made ye one, lords, one remain ;
 So I grow stronger, you more honour gain.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

The Palace Yard.

Noise and Tumult within. Enter Porter and his Man.

Port. You'll leave your noise anon, ye rascals ;
 Do you take the court for Paris-garden ?¹ ye rude
 slaves, leave your gaping.²

[*Within.*] Good master porter, I belong to the
 larder.

Port. Belong to the gallows, and be hanged, you
 rogue : Is this a place to roar in ?—Fetch me a
 dozen crab-tree staves, and strong ones ; these are
 but switches to them.—I'll scratch your heads ;
 You must be seeing christenings ? Do you look for
 ale and cakes here, you rude rascals ?

Man. Pray, sir, be patient ; 'tis as much im-
 possible

(Unless we sweep them from the door with cannons,)
 To scatter them, as 'tis to make them sleep
 On may-day morning ; which will never be :
 We may as well push against Paul's, as stir them.

Port. How got they in, and be hang'd ?

Man. Alas, I know not ; How gets the tide in ?
 As much as one sound cudgel of four foot
 (You see the poor remainder) could distribute,
 I made no spare, sir.

¹ — *Paris-garden?*] This celebrated bear-garden on the
 Bankside was so called from *Robert de Paris*, who had a house
 and garden there in the time of King Richard II.

² — *gaping.*] i. e. *shouting or roaring* ; a sense which this
 word has now almost lost.

Port. You did nothing, sir.

Man. I am not Samson, nor sir Guy, nor Colbrand,³ to mow them down before me: but, if I spared any, that had a head to hit, either young or old, he or she, cuckold or cuckold-maker, let me never hope to see a chine again; and that I would not for a cow, God save her.

[*Within.*] Do you hear, master Porter?

Port. I shall be with you presently, good master puppy.—Keep the door close, sirrah.

Man. What would you have me do?

Port. What should you do, but knock them down by the dozens? Is this Moorfields to muster in?⁴ or have we some strange Indian with the great tool come to court, the women so besiege us? Bless me, what a fry of fornication is at door! On my christian conscience, this one christening will beget a thousand; here will be father, godfather, and all together.

Man. The spoons will be the bigger, sir. There is a fellow somewhat near the door, he should be a brazier by his face,⁵ for, o'my conscience, twenty of the dog-days now reign in's nose; all that stand about him are under the line, they need no other penance: That fire-drake⁶ did I hit three times on

³ — sir Guy, nor Colbrand,] Of *Guy of Warwick* every one has heard. *Colbrand* was the Danish giant, whom Guy subdued at Winchester. Their combat is very elaborately described by Drayton, in his *Polyolbion*.

⁴ — *Moorfields to muster in?*] The train-bands of the city were exercised in Moorfields.

⁵ — *he should be a brazier by his face,*] A brazier signifies a man that manufactures brass, and a reservoir for charcoal occasionally heated to convey warmth. Both these senses are understood. JOHNSON.

⁶ — *That fire-drake—*] A *fire-drake* is both a serpent, anciently called a *brenning-drake*, or *dipsas*, and a name formerly given to a *Will o'the Wisp*, or *ignis fatuus*. A *fire-drake* was likewise an artificial *firework*.

the head, and three times was his nose discharged against me; he stands there, like a mortar-piece, to blow us. There was a haberdasher's wife of small wit near him, that railed upon me till her pink'd porringer fell off her head,⁷ for kindling such a combustion in the state. I miss'd the meteor⁸ once, and hit that woman, who cried out, *clubs!*⁹ when I might see from far some forty truncheoneers draw to her succour, which were the hope of the Strand, where she was quartered. They fell on; I made good my place; at length they came to the broomstaff with me, I defied them still; when suddenly a file of boys behind them, loose shot,¹ delivered such a shower of pebbles, that I was fain to draw mine honour in, and let them win the work.² The devil was amongst them, I think, surely.

Port. These are the youths that thunder at a play-house, and fight for bitten apples; that no audience, but the Tribulation of Tower-hill, or the limbs of Limehouse,³ their dear brothers, are able to endure. I have some of them in *Limbo Patrum*,⁴

⁷ — till her pink'd porringer fell off her head,] Her pink'd porringer is her pink'd cap, which looked as if it had been moulded on a porringer.

⁸ — the meteor—] The fire-drake, the brazier.

⁹ — who cried out, clubs!] *Clubs!* was the outcry for assistance, upon any quarrel or tumult in the streets.

¹ — loose shot,] i. e. loose or random shooters.

² — the work.] A term of fortification. STEEVENS.

³ — the Tribulation of Tower-hill, or the limbs of Limehouse,] Alliteration has given rise to many cant expressions, consisting of words paired together. Here we have cant names for the inhabitants of those places, who were notorious puritans, coined for the humour of the alliteration. In the mean time it must not be forgotten, that "precious limbs" was a common phrase of contempt for the puritans.

⁴ — in *Limbo Patrum*,] He means, in confinement. In *limbo* continues to be a cant phrase, in the same sense, at this day. The *Limbus Patrum* is, properly, the place where the old Fathers and Patriarchs are supposed to be waiting for the resurrection.

and there they are like to dance these three days ;
besides the running banquet of two beadles,^s that
is to come.

Enter the Lord Chamberlain.

Cham. Mercy o'me, what a multitude are here !
They grow still too, from all parts they are coming,
As if we kept a fair here ! Where are these porters,
These lazy knaves ?—Ye have made a fine hand,
fellows.

There's a trim rabble let in : Are all these
Your faithful friends o'the suburbs ? We shall have
Great store of room, no doubt, left for the ladies,
When they pass back from the christening.

Port. An't please your honour
We are but men ; and what so many may do,
Not being torn a pieces, we have done :
An army cannot rule them.

Cham. As I live,
If the king blame me for't, I'll lay ye all
By the heels, and suddenly ; and on your heads
Clap round fines, for neglect : You are lazy knaves ;
And here ye lie baiting of bumbards,⁶ when
Ye should do service. Hark, the trumpets sound ;
They are come already from the christening :
Go, break among the press, and find a way out
To let the troop pass fairly ; or I'll find
A Marshalsea, shall hold you play these two months,

Port. Make way there for the princess.

Man. You great fellow, stand close up, or I'll
make your head ake.

^s — running banquet of two beadles,] A publick whipping.
A banquet, in ancient language, did not signify either dinner or
supper, but the desert after each of them.

⁶ — here ye lie baiting of bumbards,] A bumbard is an ale-
barrel ; to bait bumbards is to tipple, to lie at the spigot.

Port. You i'the camblet, get up o'the rail; I'll pick you o'er the pales else.⁷ [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

*The Palace.*⁸

Enter Trumpets, sounding; then two Aldermen, Lord Mayor, Garter, CRANMER, Duke of NORFOLK, with his Marshal's Staff, Duke of Suffolk, two Noblemen bearing great standing-bowls⁹ for the christening gifts; then four Noblemen bearing a canopy, under which the Duchess of NORFOLK, godmother, bearing the child richly habited in a mantle, &c. Train borne by a Lady: then follows the Marchioness of DORSET, the other godmother, and Ladies. The Troop pass once about the stage, and Garter speaks.

Gart. Heaven, from thy endless goodness,¹ send prosperous life, long, and ever happy, to the high and mighty princess of England, Elizabeth!

Flourish. Enter King, and Train.

CRAN. [*Kneeling.*] And to your royal grace, and the good queen,
My noble partners, and myself, thus pray;—

⁷ — I'll pick you o'er the pales else,] To pick is to pitch.

⁸ *The Palace.*] At Greenwich, where this procession was made from the church of the Friars.

⁹ — standing-bowls—] i. e. bowls elevated on feet or pedestals.

¹ *Heaven, from thy endless goodness, &c.*] These words are not the invention of the poet, having been pronounced at the christening of Elizabeth.

All comfort, joy, in this most gracious lady,
 Heaven ever laid up to make parents happy,
 May hourly fall upon ye!

K. Hen. Thank you, good lord archbishop,
 What is her name?

Cran. Elizabeth.

K. Hen. Stand up, lord.—
 [*The King kisses the Child.*]

With this kiss take my blessing: God protect thee!
 Into whose hands I give thy life.

Cran. Amen.

K. Hen. My noble gossips, ye have been too
 prodigal:

I thank ye heartily; so shall this lady,
 When she has so much English.

Cran. Let me speak, sir,
 For heaven now bids me; and the words I utter
 Let none think flattery, for they'll find them truth.
 This royal infant, (heaven still move about her!)
 Though in her cradle, yet now promises
 Upon this land a thousand thousand blessings,
 Which time shall bring to ripeness: She shall be
 (But few now living can behold that goodness,)
 A pattern to all princes living with her,
 And all that shall succeed: Sheba was never
 More covetous of wisdom, and fair virtue,
 Than this pure soul shall be: all princely graces,
 That mould up such a mighty piece as this is,
 With all the virtues that attend the good,
 Shall still be doubled on her: truth shall nurse her,
 Holy and heavenly thoughts still counsel her:
 She shall be lov'd, and fear'd: Her own shall bless
 her:

Her foes shake like a field of beaten corn,
 And hang their heads with sorrow: Good grows
 with her:

In her days, every man shall eat in safety

Under his own vine, what he plants; and sing
 The merry songs of peace to all his neighbours:
 God shall be truly known; and those about her
 From her shall read the perfect ways of honour,
 And by those claim their greatness, not by blood.
 [Nor shall this peace sleep with her:^a But as when
 The bird of wonder dies, the maiden phoenix,
 Her ashes new create another heir,
 As great in admiration as herself;
 So shall she leave her blessedness to one,
 (When heaven shall call her from this cloud of
 darkness,)

Who, from the sacred ashes of her honour,
 Shall star-like rise, as great in fame as she was,
 And so stand fix'd: Peace, plenty, love, truth, terror,
 That were the servants to this chosen infant,
 Shall then be his, and like a vine grow to him;
 Wherever the bright sun of heaven shall shine,
 His honour, and the greatness of his name
 Shall be, and make new nations: He shall flourish,
 And, like a mountain cedar, reach his branches
 To all the plains about him:—Our children's
 children

Shall see this, and bless heaven.

K. Hen.

Thou speakest wonders.]

^a [Nor shall this peace sleep with her: &c.] These lines, to the interruption by the king, seem to have been inserted at some revision of the play, after the accession of King James. If the passage, included in crotchets, be left out, the speech of Cranmer proceeds in a regular tenour of prediction, and continuity of sentiments; but, by the interposition of the new lines, he first celebrates Elizabeth's successor, and then wishes he did not know that she was to die; first rejoices at the consequence, and then laments the cause. Our author was at once politick and idle; he resolved to flatter James, but neglected to reduce the whole speech to propriety; or perhaps intended that the lines inserted should be spoken in the action, and omitted in the publication, if any publication was ever in his thoughts. Mr. Theobald has made the same observation. JOHNSON.

Cran. She shall be, to the happiness of England,
An aged princess ; many days shall see her,
And yet no day without a deed to crown it.
'Would I had known no more ! but she must die,
She must, the saints must have her ; yet a virgin,
A most unspotted lily shall she pass
To the ground, and all the world shall mourn her.

K. Hen. O lord archbishop,
Thou hast made me now a man ; never, before
This happy child, did I get any thing :
This oracle of comfort has so pleas'd me,
That, when I am in heaven, I shall desire
To see what this child does, and praise my Maker.—
I thank ye all,—To you, my good lord mayor,
And your good brethren, I am much beholden ;
I have receiv'd much honour by your presence,
And ye shall find me thankful. Lead the way,
 lords ;

**Ye must all see the queen, and she must thank ye,
She will be sick else. This day, no man think
He has business at his house; for all shall stay,
This little one shall make it holiday.** [*Exeunt.*]

³ The play of *Henry the Eighth* is one of those which still keeps possession of the stage by the splendour of its pageantry. The coronation, about forty years ago, drew the people together in multitudes for a great part of the winter.* Yet pomp is not the only merit of this play. The meek sorrows and virtuous distress of Katharine have furnished some scenes, which may be justly numbered among the greatest efforts of tragedy. But the genius of Shakspeare comes in and goes out with Katharine. Every other part may be easily conceived and easily written.

JOHNSON.

• Chetwood says that, during one season, it was exhibited 75 times.

EPILOGUE.

'Tis ten to one this play can never please
 All that are here : Some come to take their ease,
 And sleep an act or two ; but those, we fear,
 We have frighted with our trumpets ; so, 'tis clear,
 They'll say, 'tis naught : others, to hear the city
 Abus'd extremely, and to cry,—*that's witty !*
 Which we have not done neither : that, I fear,
 All the expected good we are like to hear
 For this play at this time, is only in
 The merciful construction of good women ;
 For such a one we show'd them ;⁴ If they smile,⁵
 And say, 'twill do, I know, within a while

⁴ — *such a one we show'd them ;*] In the character of Katharine. JOHNSON.

⁵ — *If they smile, &c.*] Though it is very difficult to decide whether short pieces be genuine or spurious, yet I cannot restrain myself from expressing my suspicion that neither the Prologue nor Epilogue to this play is the work of Shakspeare ; *non vultus, non color*. It appears to me very likely that they were supplied by the friendship or officiousness of Jonson, whose manner they will be perhaps found exactly to resemble. There is yet another supposition possible : the Prologue and Epilogue may have been written after Shakspeare's departure from the stage, upon some accidental revival of the play, and there will then be reason for imagining that the writer, whoever he was, intended no great kindness to him, this play being recommended by a subtle and covert censure of his other works. There is, in Shakspeare, so much of *fool and fight* ;

“ ——— the fellow,

“ In a long motley coat, guarded with yellow,”
 appears so often in his drama, that I think it not very likely that he would have animadverted so severely on himself. All this, however, must be received as very dubious, since we know not the exact date of this or the other plays, and cannot tell how our author might have changed his practice or opinions.

All the best men are ours ; for 'tis ill hap,
If they hold, when their ladies bid them clap.

The historical dramas are now concluded, of which the two Parts of *Henry the Fourth*, and *Henry the Fifth*, are among the happiest of our author's compositions ; and *King John*, *Richard the Third*, and *Henry the Eighth*, deservedly stand in the second class. Those whose curiosity would refer the historical scenes to their original, may consult Holinshed, and sometimes Hall : from Holinshed Shakspeare has often inserted whole speeches, with no more alteration than was necessary to the numbers of his verse. To transcribe them into the margin was unnecessary, because the original is easily examined, and they are seldom less perspicuous in the poet than in the historian.

To play histories, or to exhibit a succession of events by action or dialogue, was a common entertainment among our rude ancestors upon great festivities. The parish clerks once performed at Clerkenwell a play which lasted three days, containing *The History of the World*. JOHNSON.

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses of the members of the committee.

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA.*

VOL. VI.

F f



* **TROILUS AND CRESSIDA.**] The story was originally written by Lollius, an old Lombard author, and since by Chaucer. POPE.

Mr. Pope (after Dryden) informs us, that the story of *Troilus and Cressida* was originally the work of one Lollius, a Lombard; of whom Gascoigne speaks in *Dan Bartholmewe his first Triumph*: "Since *Lollius* and Chaucer both, make doubt upon that close,") but Dryden goes yet further. He declares it to have been written in Latin verse, and that Chaucer translated it. Lollius was a historiographer of Urbino in Italy. Shakspeare received the greatest part of his materials for the structure of this play from the *Troye Boke* of Lydgate. Lydgate was not much more than a translator of Guido of Columpna, who was of Messina in Sicily, and wrote his *History of Troy* in Latin, after Dictys Cretensis, and Dares Phrygius, in 1287. On these, as Mr. Warton observes, he engrafted many new romantick inventions, which the taste of his age dictated, and which the connection between Grecian and Gothic fiction easily admitted; at the same time comprehending in his plan the Theban and Argonautic stories from Ovid, Statius, and Valerius Flaccus. Guido's work was published at Cologne in 1477, again 1480: at Strasburgh, 1486, and *ibidem*, 1489. It appears to have been translated by Raoul le Feure, at Cologne, into French, from whom Caxton rendered it into English in 1471, under the title of his *Recuyell*, &c. so that there must have been yet some earlier edition of Guido's performance than I have hitherto seen or heard of, unless his first translator had recourse to a manuscript.

Guido of Columpna is referred to as an authority by our own chronicler Grafton. Chaucer had made the loves of *Troilus* and *Cressida* famous, which very probably might have been Shakspeare's inducement to try their fortune on the stage.—Lydgate's *Troye Boke* was printed by Pynson, 1513. In the books of the Stationers' Company, anno 1581, is entered "A proper ballad, dialogue-wise, between *Troilus* and *Cressida*." Again, Feb. 7, 1602: "The booke of *Troilus* and *Cressida*, as it is acted by my Lo. Chamberlain's men." The first of these entries is in the name of Edward White, the second in that of M. Roberts. Again, Jan. 28, 1608, entered by Rich. Bonian and Hen. Whalley, "A booke called the history of *Troilus* and *Cressida*." STEVENS.

The entry in 1608-9 was made by the booksellers for whom this play was published in 1609. It was written, I conceive, in 1602. MALONE.

Before this play of *Troilus* and *Cressida*, printed in 1609, is a bookseller's preface, showing that first impression to have been before the play had been acted, and that it was published without Shakspeare's knowledge, from a copy that had fallen into the bookseller's hands. Mr. Dryden thinks this one of the first of our authors plays: but, on the contrary, it may be judged, from the fore-mentioned preface, that it was one of his last; and the great

number of observations, both moral and politick, with which this piece is crowded more than any other of his, seems to confirm my opinion. POPE.

We may learn, from this preface, that the original proprietors of Shakspeare's plays thought it their interest to keep them unprinted. The author of it adds, at the conclusion, these words: "Thank fortune for the 'scape it hath made among you, since, by the grand possessors' wills, I believe you should rather have prayed for them, than have been prayed," &c. By the *grand possessors*, I suppose were meant *Heming* and *Condell*. It appears that the rival play-houses at that time made frequent depredations on one another's copies. In the Induction to *The Malcontent*, written by Webster, and augmented by Marston, 1606, is the following passage:

"I wonder you would play it, another company having interest in it."

"Why not *Malevole* in folio with us, as *Jeronimo* in decimo sexto with them? They taught us a name for our play; we call it *One for another*."

Again, T. Heywood, in his preface to *The English Traveller*, 1633: "Others of them are still retained in the hands of some actors, who think it against their peculiar profit to have them come in print." STEEVENS.

Notwithstanding what has been said by a *late editor*, [Mr. Capell,] I have a copy of the *first folio*, including *Troilus and Cressida*. Indeed, as I have just now observed, it was at first either *unknown* or *forgotten*. It does not however appear in the *list* of the plays, and is thrust in between the *histories* and the *tragedies* without any enumeration of the pages; except, I think, on one leaf only. It differs entirely from the copy in the *second folio*. FARMER.

I have consulted at least *twenty copies* of the *first folio*, and *Troilus and Cressida* is not wanting in any of them. STEEVENS.

PREFACE

TO THE QUARTO EDITION OF THIS PLAY, 1609.

A never Writer to an ever Reader. Newses.

Eternal reader, you have here a new play, never stal'd with the stage, never clapper-claw'd with the palmes of the vulgar, and yet passing full of the palme comical; for it is a birth of your [*r. that*] braine, that never under-tooke any thing commicall, vainely: and were but the vaine names of commedies change for the titles of commodities, or of playes for pleas; you should see all those grand censors, that now stile them such vanities, flock to them for the maine grace of their gravities: especially this authors commedies, that are so fram'd to the life, that they serve for the most common commentaries of all the actions of our lives, shewing such a dexteritie and power of witte, that the most displeased with playes, are pleas'd with his commedies. And all such dull and heavy-witted worldings, as were never capable of the witte of a commedie, comming by report of them to his representations, have found that witte there, that they never found in them-selves, and have parted better-wittied than they came: feeling an edge of witte set upon them, more than ever they dreamed they had braine to grind it on. So much and such savored salt of witte is in his commedies, that they seeme (for their height of pleasure) to be borne in that sea that brought forth Venus. Amongst all there is none more witty than this: and had I time I would comment upon it, though I know it needs not, (for so much as will make you thinke your testerne well bestowd) but for so much worth, as even poore I know to be stuf in it. It deserves such a labour, as well as the best commedy in Terence or Plautus. And beleve this, that when hee is gone, and his commedies out of sale, you will scramble for them, and set up a new English inquisition. Take this for a warning, and at the perill of your pleasures losse, and judgments, refuse not, nor like this the lesse, for not being sullied with the smoaky breath of the multitude; but thanke fortune for the 'scape it hath made amongst you: since by the grand possessors' wills I believe you should have prayd for them [*r. it*] rather than beene prayd. And so I leave all such to bee pray'd for (for the states of their wits healths) that will not praise it. *Vale.*

PROLOGUE.

In Troy, there lies the scene. From isles of
Greece

The princes orgulous,¹ their high blood chaf'd,
Have to the port of Athens sent their ships,
Fraught with the ministers and instruments
Of cruel war: Sixty and nine, that wore
Their crownets regal, from the Athenian bay
Put forth toward Phrygia: and their vow is made,
To ransack Troy; within whose strong immures
The ravish'd Helen, Menelaus' queen,
With wanton Paris sleeps; And that's the quarrel.
To Tenedos they come;
And the deep-drawing barks do there disgorge
Their warlike fraughtage: Now on Dardan plains
The fresh and yet unbruised Greeks do pitch
Their brave pavilions: Priam's six-gated city,
Dardan, and Tymbria, Ilias, Chetas, Trojan,
And Antenorides, with massy staples,
And corresponsive and fulfilling bolts,²
Sperr up the sons of Troy.³
Now expectation, tickling skittish spirits,
On one and other side, Trojan and Greek,
Sets all on hazard:—And hither am I come
A prologue arm'd,⁴—but not in confidence

¹ *The princes orgulous,*] *Orgulous*, i. e. proud, disdainful. *Orgueilleux*, Fr.

² — fulfilling bolts,] *To fulfill*, in this place, means to fill till there be no room for more. In this sense it is now obsolete.

³ *Sperr up the sons of Troy.*] *To sperre*, or *spar*, from the old Teutonic word *Speren*, signifies to *shut up*, *defend by bars*, &c.

⁴ *A prologue arm'd,*] I come here to speak the prologue, and

Of author's pen, or actor's voice ; but suited
In like conditions as our argument,—
To tell you, fair beholders, that our play
Leaps o'er the vaunt³ and firstlings of those broils,
'Ginning in the middle ; starting thence away
To what may be digested in a play.
Like, or find fault ; do as your pleasures are ;
Now good, or bad, 'tis but the chance of war.

come in armour ; not defying the audience, in confidence of either
the author's or actor's abilities, but merely in a character suited
to the subject, in a dress of war, before a warlike play.

³ — *the vaunt* —] i. e. the *avant*, what went before.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

Priam, *King of Troy* :

Hector,
Troilus,
Paris,
Deiphobus,
Helenus,

} *his Sons.*

Æneas,
Antenor,

} *Trojan Commanders.*

Calchas, *a Trojan Priest, taking part with the Greeks.*

Pandarus, *Uncle to Cressida.*

Margarelon, *a bastard Son of Priam.*

Agamemnon, *the Grecian General*;

Menelaus, *his Brother,*

Achilles,

Ajax,

Ulysses,

Nestor,

Diomedes,

Patroclus,

} *Grecian Commanders.*

Thersites, *a deformed and scurrilous Grecian.*

Alexander, *Servant to Cressida.*

*Servant to Troilus; Servant to Paris; Servant to
Diomedes,*

Helen, *Wife to Menelaus.*

Andromache, *Wife to Hector.*

Cassandra, *Daughter to Priam; a Prophetess.*

Cressida, *Daughter to Calchas.*

Trojan and Greek Soldiers, and Attendants.

SCENE, Troy, and the Grecian Camp before i

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA.

ACT I.

SCENE I. Troy. Before Priam's Palace.

Enter TROILUS armed, and PANDARUS.

Tro. Call here my varlet,⁶ I'll unarm again :
Why should I war without the walls of Troy,
That find such cruel battle here within ?
Each Trojan, that is master of his heart,
Let him to field ; Troilus, alas ! hath none.

Pan. Will this geer ne'er be mended ?

Tro. The Greeks are strong, and skilful to their
strength,
Fierce to their skill, and to their fierceness valiant ;
But I am weaker than a woman's tear,
Tamer than sleep, fonder⁷ than ignorance ;
Less valiant than the virgin in the night,
And skill-less as unpractis'd infancy.

Pan. Well, I have told you enough of this : for
my part, I'll not meddle nor make no further. He,
that will have a cake out of the wheat, must tarry
the grinding.

Tro. Have I not tarried ?

Pan. Ay, the grinding ; but you must tarry the
bolting.

Tro. Have I not tarried ?

⁶ — *my varlet,*] This word anciently signified a servant or footman to a knight or warrior.

⁷ — *fonder* —] i. e. more weak, or foolish.

Pan. Ay, the bolting; but you must tarry the leavening.

Tro. Still have I tarried.

Pan. Ay, to the leavening: but here's yet in the word—hereafter, the kneading, the making of the cake, the heating of the oven, and the baking; nay, you must stay the cooling too, or you may chance to burn your lips.

Tro. Patience herself, what goddess e'er she be, Doth lesser blench^a at sufferance than I do. At Priam's royal table do I sit; And when fair Cressid comes into my thoughts,—So, traitor! when she comes!—When is she thence?

Pan. Well, she looked yesternight fairer than ever I saw her look, or any woman else.

Tro. I was about to tell thee,—When my heart, As wedged with a sigh, would rive in twain; Lest Hector or my father should perceive me, I have (as when the sun doth light a storm,) Bury'd this sigh in wrinkle of a smile: But sorrow, that is couch'd in seeming gladness, Is like that mirth fate turns to sudden sadness.

Pan. An her hair were not somewhat darker than Helen's, (well, go to,) there were no more comparison between the women.—But, for my part, she is my kinswoman; I would not, as they term it, praise her,—But I would somebody had heard her talk yesterday, as I did. I will not dispraise your sister Cassandra's wit; but—

Tro. O, Pandarus! I tell thee, Pandarus,—When I do tell thee, There my hopes lie drown'd, Reply not in how many fathoms deep They lie indrench'd. I tell thee, I am mad In Cressid's love: Thou answer'st, She is fair;

^a *Doth lesser blench*—] To *blench* is to shrink, start, or fly off.

Pour'st in the open ulcer of my heart
 Her eyes, her hair, her cheek, her gait, her voice;
 Handlest in thy discourse, O, that her hand,
 In whose comparison all whites are ink,
 Writing their own reproach; 'To whose soft seizure
 The cygnet's down is harsh, and spirit of sense
 Hard as the palm of ploughman!⁹ This thou tell'st
 me,

As true thou tell'st me, when I say—I love her;
 But, saying thus, instead of oil and balm,
 Thou lay'st in every gash that love hath given me
 The knife that made it.

Pan. I speak no more than truth.

Tro. Thou dost not speak so much.

Pan. 'Faith, I'll not meddle in't. Let her be as
 she is: if she be fair, 'tis the better for her; an she
 be not, she has the mends' in her own hands.

Tro. Good Pandarus! How now, Pandarus?

Pan. I have had my labour for my travel; ill-
 thought on of her, and ill-thought on of you: gone
 between and between, but small thanks for my
 labour.

Tro. What, art thou angry, Pandarus? ~~what~~,
 with me?

Pan. Because she is kin to me, therefore, she's
 not so fair as Helen: an she were not kin to me,
 she would be as fair on Friday, as Helen is on Sun-
 day. But what care I? I care not, an she were a
 black-a-moor; 'tis all one to me.

⁹ — and spirit of sense

Hard as the palm of ploughman!] In comparison with Cressida's hand, says he, *the spirit of sense*, the utmost degree, the most exquisite power of sensibility, which implies a soft hand, since the sense of touching, as Scaliger says in his *Exercitationes*, resides chiefly in the fingers, is hard as the callous and insensible palm of the ploughman.

¹ — she has the mends—] *She may make the best of a bad bargain.* This is a proverbial saying.

Tro. Say I, she is not fair?

Pan. I do not care whether you do or no. She's a fool to stay behind her father; let her to the Greeks; and so I'll tell her the next time I see her: for my part, I'll meddle nor make no more in the matter.

Tro. Pandarus,—

Pan. Not I.

Tro. Sweet Pandarus,—

Pan. Pray you, speak no more to me; I will leave all as I found it, and there an end.

[*Exit* PANDARUS. *An Alarum.*

Tro. Peace, you ungracious clamours! peace, rude sounds!

Fools on both sides! Helen must needs be fair,
When with your blood you daily paint her thus.
I cannot fight upon this argument;
It is too starv'd a subject for my sword.
But Pandarus—O gods, how do you plague me!
I cannot come to Cressid, but by Pandar;
And he's as tetchy to be woo'd to woo,
As she is stubborn-chaste against all suit.
Tell me, Apollo, for thy Daphne's love,
What Cressid is, what Pandar, and what we?
Her bed is India; there she lies, a pearl:
Between our Ilium, and where she resides,
Let it be call'd the wild and wandering flood;
Ourself, the merchant; and this sailing Pandar,
Our doubtful hope, our convoy, and our bark.

Alarum. Enter ÆNEAS.

Ænc. How now, prince Troilus? wherefore not afield?

Tro. Because not there; This woman's answer sorts,¹

¹ — sorts,] i. e. fits, suits, is congruous.

For womanish it is to be from thence.

What news, Æneas, from the field to-day?

Æne. That Paris is returned home, and hurt.

Tro. By whom, Æneas?

Æne. Troilus, by Menelaus.

Tro. Let Paris bleed: 'tis but a scar to scorn;

Paris is gor'd with Menelaus' horn. [*Alarum.*]

Æne. Hark! what good sport is out of town to-day!

Tro. Better at home, if *would I might*; were *may*.—

But to the sport abroad;—Are you bound thither?

Æne. In all swift haste.

Tro. Come, go we then together.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

The same. A Street.

Enter CRESSIDA and ALEXANDER.

Cres. Who were those went by?

Alex. Queen Hecuba, and Helen.

Cres. And whither go they?

Alex. Up to the eastern tower,

Whose height commands as subject all the vale,

To see the battle. Hector, whose patience

Is, as a virtue, fix'd, to-day was mov'd:

He chid Andromache, and struck his armourer;

And, like as there were husbandry in war,³

Before the sun rose he was harness'd light,

And to the field goes he; where every flower

Did, as a prophet, weep what it foresaw

In Hector's wrath.

³ — *husbandry in war,*] *Husbandry* means economical prudence. Troilus alludes to Hector's early rising.

Cres. What was his cause of anger?

Alex. The noise goes, this : There is among the
Greeks

A lord of Trojan blood, nephew to Hector ;

They call him, Ajax.

Cres. Good ; And what of him ?

Alex. They say he is a very man *per se*,
And stands alone.

Cres. So do all men ; unless they are drunk, sick,
or have no legs.

Alex. This man, lady, hath robbed many beasts
of their particular additions ;⁴ he is as valiant as the
lion, churlish as the bear, slow as the elephant : a
man into whom nature hath so crouded humours,
that his valour is crushed into folly,⁵ his folly
sauced with discretion : there is no man hath a vir-
tue that he hath not a glimpse of ; nor any man
an attaint, but he carries some stain of it : he is
melancholy without cause, and merry against the
hair :⁶ He hath the joints of every thing ; but every
thing so out of joint, that he is a gouty Briareus,
many hands and no use ; or purblind Argus, all eyes
and no sight.

Cres. But how should this man, that makes me
smile, make Hector angry ?

Alex. They say, he yesterday coped Hector in
the battle, and struck him down ; the disdain and
shame whereof hath ever since kept Hector fasting
and waking.

⁴ — *their particular additions ;*] Their peculiar and characteristick qualities or denominations.

⁵ — *that his valour is crushed into folly,*] To be *crushed into folly*, is to be *confused* and mingled with *folly*, so as that they make one mass together.

⁶ — *against the hair :*] Is a phrase equivalent to another now in use—*against the grain*. The French say—*à contrepoil*.

Enter PANDARUS.

Cres. Who comes here?

Alex. Madam, your uncle Pandarus.

Cres. Hector's a gallant man.

Alex. As may be in the world, lady.

Pan. What's that? what's that?

Cres. Good morrow, uncle Pandarus.

Pan. Good morrow, cousin Cressid: What do you talk of?—Good morrow, Alexander.—How do you, cousin? When were you at Ilium?

Cres. This morning, uncle.

Pan. What were you talking of, when I came? Was Hector armed, and gone, ere ye came to Ilium? Helen was not up, was she?

Cres. Hector was gone; but Helen was not up.

Pan. E'en so; Hector was stirring early.

Cres. That were we talking of, and of his anger.

Pan. Was he angry?

Cres. So he says here.

Pan. True, he was so; I know the cause too; he'll lay about him to-day, I can tell them that: and there is Troilus will not come far behind him; let them take heed of Troilus; I can tell them that too.

Cres. What, is he angry too?

Pan. Who, Troilus? Troilus is the better man of the two.

Cres. O, Jupiter! there's no comparison.

Pan. What, not between Troilus and Hector? Do you know a man if you see him?

Cres. Ay; if ever I saw him before, and knew him.

Pan. Well, I say, Troilus is Troilus.

Cres. Then you say as I say; for, I am sure, he is not Hector.

Pan. No, nor Hector is not Troilus, in some degrees.

Cres. 'Tis just to each of them; he is himself.

Pan. Himself? Alas, poor Troilus! I would, he were,——

Cres. So he is.

Pan. —— 'Condition, I had gone bare-foot to India.

Cres. He is not Hector.

Pan. Himself? no, he's not himself.—'Would 'a were himself! Well, the gods are above; Time must friend, or end: Well, Troilus, well,—I would, my heart were in her body!—No, Hector is not a better man than Troilus.

Cres. Excuse me.

Pan. He is elder.

Cres. Pardon me, pardon me.

Pan. The other's not come to't; you shall tell me another tale, when the other's come to't. Hector shall not have his wit this year.

Cres. He shall not need it, if he have his own.

Pan. Nor his qualities;——

Cres. No matter.

Pan. Nor his beauty.

Cres. 'Twould not become him, his own's better.

Pan. You have no judgment, niece: Helen herself swore the other day, that Troilus, for a brown favour, (for so 'tis, I must confess,)—Not brown neither.

Cres. No, but brown.

Pan. 'Faith, to say truth, brown and not brown.

Cres. To say the truth, true and not true.

Pan. She prais'd his complexion above Paris.

Cres. Why, Paris hath colour enough.

Pan. So he has.

Cres. Then, Troilus should have too much: if she praised him above, his complexion is higher than his; he having colour enough, and the other higher, is too flaming a praise for a good complexion, I had

as lief, Helen's golden tongue had commended Troilus for a copper nose.

Pan. I swear to you, I think, Helen loves him better than Paris.

Cres. Then she's a merry Greek,⁷ indeed.

Pan. Nay, I am sure she does. She came to him the other day into a compassed window,⁸—and, you know, he has not past three or four hairs on his chin.

Cres. Indeed, a tapster's arithmetick may soon bring his particulars therein to a total.

Pan. Why, he is very young: and yet will he, within three pound, lift as much as his brother Hector.

Cres. Is he so young a man, and so old a lifter?⁹

Pan. But, to prove to you that Helen loves him;—she came, and puts me her white hand to his cloven chin,——

Cres. Juno have mercy!—How came it cloven?

Pan. Why, you know, 'tis dimpled: I think, his smiling becomes him better than any man in all Phrygia.

Cres. O, he smiles valiantly.

Pan. Does he not?

Cres. O yes, an 'twere a cloud in autumn.

Pan. Why, go to then;—But to prove to you that Helen loves Troilus,——

Cres. Troilus will stand to the proof, if you'll prove it so.

Pan. Troilus? why, he esteems her no more than I esteem an addle egg.

⁷ — a merry Greek,] *Græcari*, among the Romans, signified to play the reveller. The expression occurs in many old English books.

⁸ — compassed window,] The *compassed window* is the same as the *bow window*.

⁹ — so old a lifter?] The word *lifter* is used for a *thief*. We still call a person who plunders shops, a *shop-lifter*. *Iliftus*, in the Gothick language, signifies a *thief*.

Cres. If you love an addle egg as well as you love an idle head, you would eat chickens i'the shell.

Pan. I cannot choose but laugh, to think how she tickled his chin!—Indeed, she has a marvellous white hand, I must needs confess.

Cres. Without the rack.

Pan. And she takes upon her to spy a white hair on his chin.

Cres. Alas, poor chin! many a wart is richer.

Pan. But, there was such laughing;—Queen Hecuba laughed, that her eyes ran o'er.

Cres. With mill-stones.

Pan. And Cassandra laughed.

Cres. But there was a more temperate fire under the pot of her eyes;—Did her eyes run o'er too?

Pan. And Hector laughed.

Cres. At what was all this laughing?

Pan. Marry, at the white hair that Helen spied on Troilus' chin.

Cres. An't had been a green hair, I should have laughed too.

Pan. They laughed not so much at the hair, as at his pretty answer.

Cres. What was his answer?

Pan. Quoth she, *Here's but one and fifty hairs on your chin, and one of them is white.*

Cres. This is her question.

Pan. That's true; make no question of that. *One and fifty hairs*, quoth he, *and one white: That white hair is my father, and all the rest are his sons.* Jupiter! quoth she, *which of these hairs is Paris my husband?* The forked one, quoth he, *pluck it out, and give it him.* But, there was such laughing! and Helen so blushed, and Paris so chafed, and all the rest so laughed, that it passed.¹

¹ ——— *that it passed.*] i. e. that it went beyond bounds.

Cres. So let it now; for it has been a great while going by.

Pan. Well, cousin, I told you a thing yesterday; think on't.

Cres. So I do.

Pan. I'll be sworn, 'tis true; he will weep you, an 'twere a man born in April.

Cres. And I'll spring up in his tears, an 'twere a nettle against May. [*A Retreat sounded.*]

Pan. Hark, they are coming from the field: Shall we stand up here, and see them, as they pass toward Ilium? good niece, do; sweet niece Cressida.

Cres. At your pleasure.

Pan. Here, here, here's an excellent place; here we may see most bravely: I'll tell you them all by their names, as they pass by; but mark Troilus above the rest.

ÆNEAS passes over the Stage.

Cres. Speak not so loud.

Pan. That's Æneas; Is not that a brave man? he's one of the flowers of Troy, I can tell you; But mark Troilus; you shall see anon.

Cres. Who's that?

ANTENOR passes over.

Pan. That's Antenor; he has a shrewd wit, I can tell you; and he's a man good enough: he's one o'the soundest judgments in Troy, whosoever, and a proper man of person:—When comes Troilus?—I'll show you Troilus anon; if he see me, you shall see him nod at me.

Cres. Will he give you the nod?

Pan. You shall see.

Cres. If he do, the rich shall have more.*

* — *the rich shall have more.*] The allusion is to the word

HECTOR *passes over.*

Pan. That's Hector, that, that, look you, that; There's a fellow!—Go thy way, Hector!—There's a brave man, niece.—O brave Hector!—Look, how he looks! there's a countenance; Is't not a brave man?

Cres. O, a brave man!

Pan. Is 'a not? It does a man's heart good—Look you what hacks are on his helmet? look you yonder, do you see? look you there! there's no jesting: there's laying on; take't off who will, as they say: there be hacks!

Cres. Be those with swords?

PARIS *passes over.*

Pan. Swords? any thing, he cares not: an the devil come to him, it's all one: By god's lid, it does one's heart good:—Yonder comes Paris, yonder comes Paris: look ye yonder, niece; Is't not a gallant man too, is't not?—Why, this is brave now.—Who said, he came hurt home to-day? he's not hurt: why, this will do Helen's heart good now. Ha! 'would I could see Troilus now!—you shall see Troilus anon.

Cres. Who's that?

HELENUS *passes over.*

Pan. That's Helenus,—I marvel, where Troilus is:—That's Helenus;—I think he went not forth to-day:—That's Helenus.

Cres. Can Helenus fight, uncle?

noddy, which, as now, did, in our author's time, and long before, signify a *silly fellow*, and may, by its etymology, signify likewise *full of nods*. Cressid means that a *noddy shall have more nods*. Of such remarks as these is a comment to consist! JOHNSON,

Pan. Helenus? no;—yes, he'll fight indifferent well:—I marvel, where Troilus is!—Hark; do you not hear the people cry, Troilus?—Helenus is a priest.

Cres. What sneaking fellow comes yonder?

TROILUS passes over.

Pan. Where? yonder? that's Deiphobus: 'Tis Troilus! there's a man, niece!—Hem!—Brave Troilus! the prince of chivalry.

Cres. Peace, for shame, peace!

Pan. Mark him; note him;—O brave Troilus!—look well upon him, niece; look you, how his sword is bloodied, and his helm more hack'd than Hector's; And how he looks, and how he goes!—O admirable youth! he ne'er saw three and twenty. Go thy way, Troilus, go thy way; had I a sister were a grace, or a daughter a goddess, he should take his choice. O admirable man! Paris?—Paris is dirt to him; and, I warrant, Helen, to change, would give an eye to boot.

Forces pass over the Stage.

Cres. Here come more.

Pan. Asses, fools, dolts! chaff and bran, chaff and bran! porridge after meat! I could live and die i'the eyes of Troilus. Ne'er look, ne'er look; the eagles are gone; crows and daws, crows and daws! I had rather be such a man as Troilus, than Agamemnon and all Greece.

Cres. There is among the Greeks, Achilles; a better man than Troilus.

Pan. Achilles? a drayman, a porter, a very camel.

Cres. Well, well.

Pan. Well, well?—Why, have you any discretion? have you any eyes? Do you know what a man

is? Is not birth, beauty, good shape, discourse, manhood, learning, gentleness, virtue, youth, liberality, and such like, the spice and salt that season a man?

Cres. Ay, a minced man: and then to be baked with no date in the pye,³—for then the man's date is out.

Pan. You are such a woman! one knows not at what ward you lie.⁴

Cres. Upon my back, to defend my belly; upon my wit, to defend my wiles; upon my secrecy, to defend mine honesty; my mask, to defend my beauty; and you, to defend all these: and at all these wards I lie, at a thousand watches.

Pan. Say one of your watches.

Cres. Nay, I'll watch you for that; and that's one of the chiefest of them too; if I cannot ward what I would not have hit, I can watch you for telling how I took the blow; unless it swell past hiding, and then it is past watching.

Pan. You are such another.

Enter TROILUS' Boy.

Boy. Sir, my lord would instantly speak with you.

Pan. Where?

Boy. At your own house; there he unarms him.

Pan. Good boy, tell him I come: [*Exit Boy.*] I doubt, he be hurt.—Fare ye well, good niece.

Cres. Adieu, uncle.

Pan. I'll be with you, niece, by and by.

Cres. To bring, uncle,——

³ — no date in the pye,] To account for the introduction of this quibble, it should be remembered that *dates* were an ingredient in ancient pastry of almost every kind.

⁴ — at what ward you lie.] A metaphor from the art of defence.

Pan. Ay, a token from Troilus.

Cres. By the same token—you are a bawd.—

[*Exit* PANDARUS.]

Words, vows, griefs, tears, and love's full sacrifice,
He offers in another's enterprize :
But more in Troilus thousand fold I see
Than in the glass of Pandar's praise may be ;
Yet hold I off. Women are angels, wooing :
Things won are done, joy's soul lies in the doing :
That she belov'd knows nought, that knows not
this,—

Men prize the thing ungain'd more than it is :
That she was never yet, that ever knew
Love got so sweet, as when desire did sue :
Therefore this maxim out of love I teach,—
Achievement is command ; ungain'd, beseech :⁵
Then though my heart's content⁶ firm love doth bear,
Nothing of that shall from mine eyes appear. [*Exit.*]

SCENE III.

The Grecian Camp. Before Agameninon's Tent.

Trumpets. Enter AGAMEMNON, NESTOR, ULYSSES,
MENELAUS, *and Others.*

Agam. Princes,
What grief hath set the jaundice on your cheeks ?
The ample proposition, that hope makes
In all designs begun on earth below,
Fails in the promis'd largeness : checks and disasters
Grow in the veins of actions highest rear'd ;

⁵ *Achievement is command ; ungain'd, beseech :*] The meaning of this obscure line seems to be—"Men, after possession, become our commanders : before it, they are our suppliants."

⁶ — *my heart's content* —] *Content for capacity, or perhaps for consent.*

As knots, by the conflux of meeting sap,
 Infect the sound pine, and divert his grain
 Tortive and errant from his course of growth.
 Nor, princes, is it matter new to us,
 That we come short of our suppose so far,
 That, after seven years' siege, yet Troy walls stand;
 Sith every action that hath gone before,
 Whereof we have record, trial did draw
 Bias and thwart, not answering the aim,
 And that unbodied figure of the thought
 That gav't surmised shape. Why then, you princes,
 Do you with cheeks abash'd behold our works;
 And think them shames, which are, indeed, nought
 else

But the protractive trials of great Jove,
 To find persistive constancy in men?
 The fineness of which metal is not found
 In fortune's love: for then, the bold and coward,
 The wise and fool, the artist and unread,
 The hard and soft, seem all affin'd⁷ and kin:
 But, in the wind and tempest of her frown,
 Distinction, with a broad and powerful fan,
 Puffing at all, winnows the light away;
 And what hath mass, or matter, by itself
 Lies, rich in virtue, and unmingled.

Nest. With due observance of thy godlike seat,
 Great Agamemnon, Nestor shall apply⁸
 Thy latest words. In the reproof of chance
 Lies the true proof of men: the sea being smooth,
 How many shallow bauble boats dare sail
 Upon her patient breast, making their way
 With those of nobler bulk?
 But let the ruffian Boreas once enrage

⁷ — *affin'd* —] i. e. joined by affinity.

⁸ — *Nestor shall apply* —] Perhaps Nestor means, that he will attend particularly to, and consider, Agamemnon's latest words.

The gentle Thetis, and, anon, behold
 The strong-ribb'd bark through liquid mountains cut,
 Bounding between the two moist elements,
 Like Perseus' horse: Where's then the saucy boat,
 Whose weak untimber'd sides but even now
 Do-rival'd greatness? either to harbour fled,
 Or made a toast for Neptune. Even so
 Doth valour's show, and valour's worth, divide,
 In storms of fortune: For, in her ray and brightness,
 The herd hath more annoyance by the brize,⁹
 Than by the tiger; but when the splitting wind
 Makes flexible the knees of knotted oaks,
 And flies fled under shade,¹ Why, then, the thing of
 courage,²

As rous'd with rage, with rage doth sympathize,
 And, with an accent turn'd in self-same key,
 Returns to chiding³ fortune.

Ulyss.

Agamemnon,—

Thou great commander, nerve and bone of Greece,
 Heart of our numbers, soul and only spirit,
 In whom the tempers and the minds of all
 Should be shut up,—hear what Ulysses speaks.
 Besides the applause and approbation
 The which,—most mighty for thy place and sway,—

[*To AGAMEMNON.*

And thou most reverend for thy stretch'd-out life,—

[*To NESTOR.*

[give to both your speeches,—which were such,
 As Agamemnon and the hand of Greece
 Should hold up high in brass; and such again,
 As venerable Nestor, hatch'd in silver,

⁹ — *by the brize,*] The *brize* is the *gad* or *horse-fly*.

¹ *And flies fled under shade,*] i. e. And flies are fled under shade.

² — *the thing of courage,*] It is said of the tiger, that in storms and high winds he rages and roars most furiously.

³ *Returns to chiding—*] *Chiding* is noisy, clamorous.

Should with a bond of air (strong as the axletree
On which heaven rides,) knit all the Greekish ears
To his experienc'd tongue,⁴—yet let it please both,—
Thou great,—and wise,— to hear Ulysses speak.

Agam. Speak, prince of Ithaca; and be't of less
expect,⁵

That matter needless, of importless burden,
Divide thy lips; than we are confident,
When rank Thersites opes his mastiff jaws,
We shall hear musick, wit, and oracle.

Ulyss. Troy, yet upon his basis, had been down,
And the great Hector's sword had lack'd a master,
But for these instances.

The specialty of rule⁶ hath been neglected:
And, look, how many Grecian tents do stand
Hollow upon this plain, so many hollow factions.
When that the general is not like the hive,⁷

⁴ — speeches,—which were such,
As Agamemnon and the hand of Greece
Should hold up high in brass; and such again,
As venerable Nestor, hatch'd in silver,
Should with a bond of air—
— knit all the Greekish ears

To his experienc'd tongue,] Ulysses begins his oration with praising those who had spoken before him, and marks the characteristic excellencies of their different eloquence,—strength, and sweetness, which he expresses by the different metals on which he recommends them to be engraven for the instruction of posterity. The speech of Agamemnon is such that it ought to be engraven in brass, and the tablet held up by him on the one side, and Greece on the other, to show the union of their opinion. And Nestor ought to be exhibited in silver, uniting all his audience in one mind by his soft and gentle elocution. Brass is the common emblem of strength, and silver of gentleness. We call a soft voice a *silver* voice, and a persuasive tongue a *silver* tongue. To *hatch* is a term of art for a particular method of engraving. *Hacher*, to cut, Fr. The Commentators differ in some respects from this explanation.

⁵ — expect —] *Expect* for *expectation*.

⁶ *The specialty of rule* —] The particular rights of supreme authority.

To whom the foragers shall all repair,
 What honey is expected? Degree being vizarded,
 The unworthiest shows as fairly in the mask.
 The heavens themselves, the planets, and this
 center,⁸

Observe degree, priority, and place,
 Insisture, course, proportion, season, form,
 Office, and custom, in all line of order :
 And therefore is the glorious planet, Sol,
 In noble eminence enthron'd and sph'er'd
 Amidst the other ; whose med'cinable eye
 Corrects the ill aspécts of planets evil,
 And posts, like the commandment of a king,
 Sans check, to good and bad : But, when the planets,
 In evil mixture, to disorder wander,
 What plagues, and what portents ? what mutiny ?
 What raging of the sea ? shaking of earth ?
 Commotion in the winds ? frights, changes, horrors,
 Divert and crack, rend and deracinate⁹
 The unity and married calm of states
 Quite from their fixure ? O, when degree is shak'd,
 Which is the ladder of all high designs,
 The enterprize is sick ! How could communities,
 Degrees in schools, and brotherhoods in cities,¹
 Peaceful commérce from dividable shores,²

⁷ *When that the general is not like the hive,*] The meaning is,—
When the general is not to the army like the hive to the bees, the
repository of the stock of every individual, that to which each
particular resorts with whatever he has collected for the good of
the whole, what honey is expected? what hope of advantage? The
sense is clear, the expression is confused. JOHNSON.

⁸ — *the planets, and this center,*] By *this center*, Ulysses
 means the earth itself, not the center of the earth. According
 to the system of Ptolemy, the earth is the center round which
 the planets move.

⁹ — *deracinate* —] i. e. force up by the roots.

¹ — *brotherhoods in cities,*] Corporations, companies, con-
 fraternities.

² — *dividable shores,*] i. e. divided.

The primogenitive and due of birth,
 Prerogative of age, crowns, sceptres, laurels,
 But by degree, stand in authentick place?
 Take but degree away, untune that string,
 And, hark, what discord follows? each thing meet
 In mere³ oppugnancy: The bounded waters
 Should lift their bosoms higher than the shores,
 And make a sop of all this solid globe:
 Strength should be lord of imbecility,
 And the rude son should strike his father dead:
 Force should be right; or, rather, right and wrong,
 (Between whose endless jar justice resides,)
 Should lose their names, and so should justice
 too.

Then every thing includes itself in power,
 Power into will, will into appetite;
 And appetite, an universal wolf,
 So doubly seconded with will and power,
 Must make perforce an universal prey,
 And, last, eat up himself. Great Agamemnon,
 This chaos, when degree is suffocate,
 Follows the choking.
 And this neglect of degree it is,
 That by a pace⁴ goes backward, with a purpose
 It hath to climb.⁵ The general's disdain'd
 By him one step below; he, by the next;
 That next, by him beneath: so every step,
 Exempl'd by the first pace that is sick
 Of his superior, grows to an envious fever
 Of pale and bloodless emulation:⁶
 And 'tis this fever that keeps Troy on foot,

³ — mere —] *Mere* is absolute.

⁴ *That by a pace* —] That goes backward *step by step*.

⁵ — *with a purpose*

It hath to climb.] With a design in each man to aggrandize himself, by slighting his immediate superior.

⁶ — *bloodless emulation* :] An emulation not vigorous and active, but malignant and sluggish.

Not her own sinews. To end a tale of length,
Troy in our weakness stands, not in her strength.

Nest. Most wisely hath Ulysses here discover'd
The fever whereof all our power⁷ is sick.

Agam. The nature of the sickness found, Ulysses,
What is the remedy?

Ulyss. The great Achilles,—whom opinion crowns
The sinew and the forehead of our host,—
Having his ear full of his airy fame,
Grows dainty of his worth, and in his tent
Lies mocking our designs: With him, Patroclus,
Upon a lazy bed the livelong day
Breaks scurril jests;
And with ridiculous and awkward action
(Which, slanderer, he imitation calls,)
He pageants us. Sometime, great Agamemnon,
Thy topless deputation⁸ he puts on;
And, like a strutting player,—whose conceit
Lies in his hamstring, and doth think it rich
To hear the wooden dialogue and sound
Twixt his stretch'd footing and the scaffoldage,⁹—
Such to-be-pitied and o'er-wrested seeming¹
He acts thy greatness in: and when he speaks,
'Tis like a chime a mending; with terms unsquar'd,²
Which, from the tongue of roaring Typhon dropp'd,
Would seem hyperboles. At this fusty stuff,
The large Achilles, on his press'd bed lolling,
From his deep chest laughs out a loud applause;

⁷ — our power —] i. e. our army.

⁸ *Thy topless deputation*—] *Topless* is that which has nothing topping or overtopping it; supreme; sovereign.

⁹ *'Twixt his stretch'd footing and the scaffoldage,*] The galleries of the theatre, in the time of our author, were sometimes termed the scaffold.

¹ — o'er-wrested seeming —] i. e. wrested beyond the truth.

² — unsquar'd,] i. e. unadapted to their subject, as stones are unfitted to the purposes of architecture, while they are yet unsquar'd.

Cries—*Excellent!*—'Tis Agamemnon just.—
Now play me Nestor;—hem, and stroke thy beard,
As he, being 'drest to some oration.

That's done;—as near as the extremest ends
 Of parallels:³ as like as Vulcan and his wife:
 Yet good Achilles still cries, *Excellent!*
 'Tis Nestor right! *Now play him me, Patroclus,*
Arming to answer in a night alarm.
 And then, forsooth, the faint defects of age
 Must be the scene of mirth; to cough, and spit,
 And with a palsy-fumbling on his gorget,
 Shake in and out the rivet;—And at this sport,
 Sir Valour dies; cries, *O!—enough, Patroclus;—*
Or give me ribs of steel! I shall split all
In pleasure of my spleen. And in this fashion,
 All our abilities, gifts, natures, shapes,
 Severals and generals of grace exact,
 Achievements, plots, orders, preventions,
 Excitements to the field, or speech for truce,
 Success, or loss, what is, or is not, serves
 As stuff for these two to make paradoxes.

Nest. And in the imitation of these twain
 (Whom, as Ulysses says, opinion crowns
 With an imperial voice,) many are infect.
 Ajax is grown self-will'd; and bears his head
 In such a rein,⁴ in full as proud a place
 As broad Achilles; keeps his tent like him;
 Makes factious feasts; rails on our state of war,
 Bold as an oracle; and sets Thersites
 (A slave, whose gall coins slanders like a mint,⁵)

³ — as near as the extremest ends
Of parallels;] The parallels to which the allusion seems to be
 made, are the parallels on a map. As like as east to west.

⁴ — bears his head
In such a rein,] That is, holds up his head as haughtily. We
 still say of a girl, *she bridle*s.

⁵ — whose gall coins slanders like a mint,] i. e. as fast as a
 mint coins money.

To match us in comparisons with dirt ;
To weaken and discredit our exposure,
How rank soever rounded in with danger.⁶

Ulyss. They tax our policy, and call it cowardice ;
Count wisdom as no member of the war ;
ForeSTALL prescience, and esteem no act
But that of hand : the still and mental parts,—
That do contrive how many hands shall strike,
When fitness calls them on ; and know, by measure⁷
Of their observant toil, the enemies' weight,—
Why, this hath not a finger's dignity :
They call this—bed-work, mappery, closet-war :
So that the ram, that batters down the wall,
For the great swing and rudeness of his poize,
They place before his hand that made the engine ;
Or those, that with the fineness of their souls
By reason guide his execution.

Nest. Let this be granted, and Achilles' horse
Makes many 'Thetis' sons. [*Trumpet sounds.*]

Agam. What trumpet ? look, Menelaus,

Enter ÆNEAS.

Men. From Troy.

Agam. What would you 'fore our tent ?

Æne. Is this

Great Agamemnon's tent, I pray ?

Agam. Even this.

Æne. May one, that is a herald, and a prince,
Do a fair message to his kingly ears ?

Agam. With surety stronger than Achilles' arm
'Fore all the Greekish heads, which with one voice
Call Agamemnon head and general.

⁶ How rank soever rounded in with danger.] A rank weed is a high weed.

⁷ — by measure—] i. e. "by means of their observant toil."

Æne. Fair leave, and large security. How may
A stranger to those most imperial looks⁸
Know them from eyes of other mortals?

Agam.

How?

Æne. Ay;

I ask, that I might waken reverence,
And bid the cheek be ready with a blush
Modest as morning when she coldly eyes
The youthful Phœbus:
Which is that god in office, guiding men?
Which is the high and mighty Agamemnon?

Agam. This Trojan scorns us; or the men of Troy
Are ceremonious courtiers.

Æne. Courtiers as free, as debonair, unarm'd,
As bending angels; that's their fame in peace:
But when they would seem soldiers, they have galls,
Good arms, strong joints, true swords; and Jove's
accord,

Nothing so full of heart.⁹ But peace, *Æneas*,
Peace, Trojan; lay thy finger on thy lips!
The worthiness of praise distains his worth,
If that the prais'd himself bring the praise forth:

⁸ *A stranger to those most imperial looks—*] And yet this was the seventh year of the war. Shakspeare, who so wonderfully preserves character, usually confounds the customs of all nations, and probably supposed that the ancients (like the heroes of chivalry) fought with beavers to their helmets. So, in the fourth Act of this play, Nestor says to Hector:

“But this thy countenance, still lock'd in steel,

“I never saw till now.”

Shakspeare might have adopted this error from the wooden cuts to ancient books, or from the illuminators of manuscripts, who never seem to have entertained the least idea of habits, manners, or customs more ancient than their own. There are books in the British Museum of the age of King Henry VI; and in these the heroes of ancient Greece are represented in the very dresses worn at the time when the books received their decorations.

⁹——— *they have galls, &c.*] This is not very intelligible, but perhaps the speaker meant to say, that, when they have the record of Jove on their side, nothing is so courageous as the Trojans.

But what the repining enemy commends,
That breath fame follows; that praise, solè pure,
transcends.

Agam. Sir, you of Troy, call you yourself Æneas?

Æne. Ay, Greek, that is my name.

Agam. What's your affair, I pray you?

Æne. Sir, pardon; 'tis for Agamemnon's ears.

Agam. He hears nought privately, that comes
from Troy.

Æne. Nor I from Troy come not to whisper him?
I bring a trumpet to awake his ear;
To set his sense on the attentive bent,
And then to speak.

Agam. Speak frankly as the wind;
It is not Agamemnon's sleeping hour:
That thou shalt know, Trojan, he is awake,
He tells thee so himself.

Æne. Trumpet, blow loud,
Send thy brass voice through all these lazy tents;—
And every Greek of mettle, let him know,
What Troy means fairly, shall be spoke aloud.

[*Trumpet sounds.*]

We have, Great Agamemnon, here in Troy
A prince call'd Hector, (Priam is his father,)
Who in this dull and long-continued truce¹
Is rusty grown; he bade me take a trumpet,
And to this purpose speak. Kings, princes, lords!
If there be one, among the fair'st of Greece,
That holds his honour higher than his case;
That seeks his praise more than he fears his peril;
That knows his valour, and knows not his fear;
That loves his mistress more than in confession,²

¹ — *long-continued truce*—] Of this long *truce* there has been no notice taken; in this very Act it is said, that *Ajax coped Hector yesterday in the battle*. Here we have another proof of Shakspeare's falling into inconsistencies, by sometimes adhering to, and sometimes deserting, his original.

² — *more than in confession,*] *Confession for profession.*

(With truant vows to her own lips he loves,)
 And dare avow her beauty and her worth,
 In other arms than hers,—to him this challenge.
 Hector, in view of Trojans and of Greeks,
 Shall make it good, or do his best to do it,
 He hath a lady, wiser, fairer, truer,
 Than ever Greek did compass in his arms ;
 And will to-morrow with his trumpet call,
 Mid-way between your tents and walls of Troy,
 To rouse a Grecian that is true in love :
 If any come, Hector shall honour him ;
 If none, he'll say in Troy, when he retires,
 The Grecian dames are sun-burn'd, and not worth
 The splinter of a lance. Even so much.

Agam. This shall be told our lovers, lord *Æneas* ;
 If none of them have soul in such a kind,
 We left them all at home : But we are soldiers ;
 And may that soldier a mere recreant prove,
 That means not, hath not, or is not in love !
 If then one is, or hath, or means to be,
 That one meets Hector ; if none else, I am he.

Nest. Tell him of Nestor, one that was a man
 When Hector's grandsire suck'd : he is old now ;
 But, if there be not in our Grecian host
 One noble man, that hath one spark of fire
 To answer for his love, Tell him from me,—
 I'll hide my silver beard in a gold beaver,
 And in my vantbrace³ put this wither'd brawn ;
 And meeting him, will tell him, that my lady
 Was fairer than his grandame, and as chaste
 As may be in the world ; His youth in flood,
 I'll prove this truth with my three drops of blood.

Æne. Now heavens forbid such scarcity of youth !

Ulyss. Amen.

Agam. Fair lord *Æneas*, let me touch your hand ;

³And in my vantbrace—] An armour for the arm, *avantbras*.

To our pavilion shall I lead you, sir.
 Achilles shall have word of this intent ;
 So shall each lord of Greece, from tent to tent :
 Yourself shall feast with us before you go,
 And find the welcome of a noble foe.

[*Exeunt all but ULYSSES and NESTOR.*]

Ulyss. Nestor,——

Nest. What says Ulysses ?

Ulyss. I have a young conception in my brain,
 Be you my time to bring it to some shape.⁴

Nest. What is't ?

Ulyss. This 'tis :

Blunt wedges rive hard knots : The seeded pride
 That hath to this maturity blown up
 In rank Achilles, must or now be cropp'd,
 Or, shedding, breed a nursery of like evil,
 To overbulk us all.

Nest. Well, and how ?

Ulyss. This challenge that the gallant Hector
 sends,

However it is spread in general name,
 Relates in purpose only to Achilles,

Nest. The purpose is perspicuous even as substance,

Whose grossness little characters sum up :
 And, in the publication, make no strain,⁵
 But that Achilles, were his brain as barren
 As banks of Libya,—though, Apollo knows,
 'Tis dry enough,—will, with great speed of judgment,
 Ay, with celerity, find Hector's purpose
 Pointing on him.

Ulyss. And wake him to the answer, think you ?

⁴ *Be you my time, &c.*] i. e. be you to my present purpose what time is in respect of all other schemes, viz. a ripener and bringer of them to maturity.

⁵ *And, in the publication, make no strain,*] i. e. make no difficulty, no doubt.

Nest.

Yes,

It is most meet ; Whom may you else oppose,
 That can from Hector bring those honours off,
 If not Achilles ? Though't be a sportful combat,
 Yet in the trial much opinion dwells ;
 For here the Trojans taste our dear'st repute
 With their fin'st palate : And trust to me, Ulysses,
 Our imputation shall be oddly pois'd
 In this wild action : for the success,
 Although particular, shall give a scantling⁶
 Of good or bad unto the general ;
 And in such indexes, although small pricks⁷
 To their subséquent volumes, there is seen
 The baby figure of the giant mass
 Of things to come at large. It is suppos'd,
 He, that meets Hector, issues from our choice :
 And choice, being mutual act of all our souls,
 Makes merit her election ; and doth boil,
 As 'twere from forth us all, a man distill'd
 Out of our virtues ; Who miscarrying,
 What heart receives from hence a conquering part,
 To steel a strong opinion to themselves ?
 Which entertain'd, limbs are his instruments,
 In no less working, than are swords and bows
 Directive by the limbs.

Ulyss. Give pardon to my speech ;—
 Therefore 'tis meet Achilles meet not Hector.
 Let us, like merchants, show our foulest wares,
 And think, perchance, they'll sell ; if not,
 The lustre of the better shall exceed,
 By showing the worse first. Do not consent,
 That ever Hector and Achilles meet ;

⁶ — *scantling*—] That is, a *measure, proportion*. The carpenter cuts his wood to a certain *scantling*.

⁷ — *small pricks*—] Small *points compared with the volumes*, or perhaps indexes, which were, in Shakspeare's time, often *prefixed to books*.

For both our honour and our shame, in this,
Are dogg'd with two strange followers.

Nest. I see them not with my old eyes ; what are they ?

Ulyss. What glory our Achilles shares from Hector,
Were he not proud, we all should share with him :
But he already is too insolent ;
And we were better parch in Africk sun,
Than in the pride and salt scorn of his eyes,
Should he 'scape Hector fair : If he were foil'd,
Why, then we did our main opinion^s crush
In taint of our best man. No, make a lottery ;
And, by device, let blockish Ajax draw
The sort⁹ to fight with Hector : Among ourselves,
Give him allowance for the better man,
For that will physick the great Myrmidon,
Who broils in loud applause ; and make him fall
His crest, that prouder than blue Iris bends.
If the dull brainless Ajax come safe off,
We'll dress him up in voices : If he fail,
Yet go we under our opinion^a still
That we have better men. But, hit or miss,
Our project's life this shape of sense assumes,—
Ajax, employ'd, plucks down Achilles' plumes.

Nest. Ulysses,
Now I begin to relish thy advice ;
And I will give a taste of it forthwith
To Agamemnon : go we to him straight.
Two curs shall tame each other ; Pride alone
Must tarre the mastiffs on,³ as 'twere their bone.

[*Exeunt.*]

^s — our main opinion —] *Is*, our general estimation or character.

⁹ *The sort* —] i. e. the lot.

^a — under our opinion —] Here again *opinion* means character.

³ *Must tarre the mastiffs on,*] *Tarre*, an old English word, signifying to provoke or urge on.

ACT II.³SCENE I. *Another Part of the Grecian Camp.**Enter AJAX and THERSITES.**Ajax.* Thersites,—*Ther.* Agamemnon—how if he had boils? full, all over, generally?*Ajax.* Thersites,—*Ther.* And those boils did run?—Say so,—did not the general run then? were not that a botchy core?*Ajax.* Dog,—*Ther.* Then would come some matter from him; I see none now.*Ajax.* Thou bitch-wolf's son, canst thou not hear? Feel then. *[Strikes him.]**Ther.* The plague of Greece upon thee, thou mongrel beef-witted lord!*Ajax.* Speak then, thou unsalted leaven, speak: I will beat thee into handsomeness.*Ther.* I shall sooner rail thee into wit and holiness: but, I think, thy horse will sooner con an oration, than thou learn a prayer without book. Thou canst strike, canst thou? a red murrain o' thy jade's tricks!*Ajax.* Toads-stool, learn me the proclamation.*Ther.* Dost thou think, I have no sense, thou strikest me thus?*Ajax.* The proclamation,—*Ther.* Thou art proclaimed a fool, I think,

³ *Act II.*] This play is not divided into Acts in any of the original editions.

Ajax. Do not, porcupine, do not; my fingers itch.

Ther. I would, thou didst itch from head to foot, and I had the scratching of thee; I would make thee the loathsome scab in Greece. When thou art forth in the incursions, thou strikest as slow as another.

Ajax. I say, the proclamation,—

Ther. Thou grumblest and raillest every hour on Achilles; and thou art as full of envy at his greatness, as Cerberus is at Proserpina's beauty, ay, that thou barkest at him.

Ajax. Mistress Thersites!

Ther. Thou shouldest strike him.

Ajax. Cobloaf!⁴

Ther. He would pun thee into shivers⁵ with his fist, as a sailor breaks a biscuit.

Ajax. You whoreson cur! [Beating him.]

Ther. Do, do.

Ajax. Thou stool for a witch!⁶

Ther. Ay, do, do; thou sodden-witted lord! thou hast no more brain than I have in mine elbows; an assinego⁷ may tutor thee: Thou scurvy valiant ass! thou art here put to thrash Trojans; and thou art bought and sold⁸ among those of any wit, like a Barbarian slave. If thou use to beat me,⁹ I will

⁴ — Cobloaf!] A crusty, uneven, gibbous loaf, is in some counties called by this name.

⁵ — pun thee into shivers —] Pun is in the midland counties the vulgar and colloquial word for—pound.

⁶ Thou stool for a witch!] In one way of trying a witch they used to place her on a chair or stool, with her legs tied across, that all the weight of her body might rest upon her seat; and by that means, after some time, the circulation of the blood would be much stopped, and her sitting would be as painful as the wooden horse. GREY.

⁷ — an assinego —] A he ass.

⁸ — thou art bought and sold —] This was a proverbial expression.

⁹ If thou use to beat me,] i. e. if thou continue to beat me, or make a practice of beating me.

begin at thy heel, and tell what thou art by inches,
thou thing of no bowels, thou!

Ajax. You dog!

Ther. You scurvy lord!

Ajax. You cur!

[*Beating him.*]

Ther. Mars his idiot! do, rudeness; do, camel;
do, do.

Enter ACHILLES and PATROCLUS.

Achil. Why, how now, Ajax? wherefore do you
thus?

How now, Thersites? what's the matter, man?

Ther. You see him there, do you?

Achil. Ay; what's the matter?

Ther. Nay, look upon him.

Achil. So I do; What's the matter?

Ther. Nay, but regard him well.

Achil. Well, why I do so.

Ther. But yet you look not well upon him: for,
whosoever you take him to be, he is Ajax.

Achil. I know that, fool.

Ther. Ay, but that fool knows not himself.

Ajax. Therefore I beat thee.

Ther. Lo, lo, lo, lo, what modicums of wit he
utters! his evasions have ears thus long. I have
bobbed his brain, more than he has beat my bones:
I will buy nine sparrows for a penny, and his *pia*
*mater*¹ is not worth the ninth part of a sparrow.
This lord, Achilles, Ajax,—who wears his wit in his
belly, and his guts in his head,—I'll tell you what I
say of him.

Achil. What?

Ther. I say, this Ajax——

¹ — his *pia mater*, &c.] The *pia mater* is a membrane that
protects the substance of the brain.

Achil. Nay, good Ajax.

[*AJAX offers to strike him, ACHILLES interposes.*

Ther. Has not so much wit——

Achil. Nay, I must hold you.

Ther. As will stop the eye of Helen's needle, for whom he comes to fight.

Achil. Peace, fool!

Ther. I would have peace and quietness, but the fool will not: he there; that he; look you there.

Ajax. O thou damned cur! I shall——

Achil. Will you set your wit to a fool's?

Ther. No, I warrant you; for a fool's will shame it.

Patr. Good words, Thersites.

Achil. What's the quarrel?

Ajax. I bade the vile owl, go learn me the tenour of the proclamation, and he rails upon me.

Ther. I serve thee not.

Ajax. Well, go to, go to.

Ther. I serve here voluntary.

Achil. Your last service was sufferance, 'twas not voluntary; no man is beaten voluntary;² Ajax was here the voluntary, and you as under an impress.

Ther. Even so?—a great deal of your wit too lies in your sinews, or else there be liars. Hector shall have a great catch, if he knock out either of your brains; 'a were as good crack a fusty nut with no kernel.

Achil. What, with me too, Thersites?

Ther. There's Ulysses, and old Nestor,—whose wit was mouldy ere your grandsires had nails on their toes,—yoke you like draught oxen, and make you plough up the wars.

Achil. What, what?

² — *Is beaten voluntary:*] i. e. voluntarily. Shakspeare often uses adjectives adverbially.

Ther. Yes, good sooth ; To, Achilles ! to, Ajax ! to !

Ajax. I shall cut out your tongue.

Ther. 'Tis no matter ; I shall speak as much as thou, afterwards.

Patr. No more words, Thersites ; peace.

Ther. I will hold my peace when Achilles' brach bids me,^a shall I ?

Achil. There's for you, Patroclus.

Ther. I will see you hanged, like clotpoles, ere I come any more to your tents ; I will keep where there is wit stirring, and leave the faction of fools.

[*Erit.*

Patr. A good riddance.

Achil. Marry this, sir, is proclaimed through all our host :

That Hector, by the first hour of the sun,
Will, with a trumpet, 'twixt our tents and Troy,
To-morrow morning call some knight to arms,
That hath a stomach ; and such a one, that dare
Maintain—I know not what ; 'tis trash : Farewell.

Ajax. Farewell. Who shall answer him ?

Achil. I know not, it is put to lottery ; otherwise,
He knew his man.

Ajax. O, meaning you :—I'll go learn more of it.

[*Excunt.*

^a ——— when Achilles' brach bids me,] The commentators are not agreed on the meaning of this word, some referring it to a species of dog, and some to an ornament called a *broche*, or *broach*.

SCENE II.

Troy. *A Room in Priam's Palace.*

Enter PRIAM, HECTOR, TROILUS, PARIS, and
HELENUS.

Pri. After so many hours, lives, speeches spent,
Thus once again says Nestor from the Greeks ;
Deliver Helen, and all damage else—
As honour, loss of time, travel, expence,
Wounds, friends, and what else dear that is consum'd
In hot digestion of this cormorant war,—
*Shall be struck off :—*Hector, what say you to't ?

Hect. Though no man lesser fears the Greeks than I,
As far as toucheth my particular, yet,
Dread Priam,
There is no lady of more softer bowels,
More spongy to suck in the sense of fear,
More ready to cry out—*Who knows what follows ?*
Than Hector is : The wound of peace is surety,
Surety secure ; but modest doubt is call'd
The beacon of the wise, the tent that searches
To the bottom of the worst. Let Helen go :
Since the first sword was drawn about this question,
Every tithe soul, 'mongst many thousand dismes,⁴
Hath been as dear as Helen ; I mean, of ours :
If we have lost so many tenths of ours,
To guard a thing not our's ; not worth to us,
Had it our name, the value of one ten ;
What merit's in that reason, which denies
The yielding of her up ?

Tro.

Fye, fye, my brother !

⁴ ——— many thousand dismes,] *Disme*, Fr. is the tithe, the tenth.

Weigh you the worth and honour of a king,
 So great as our dread father, in a scale
 Of common ounces ? will you with counters sum
 The past-proportion of his infinite ?⁵
 And buckle-in a waist most fathomless,
 With spans and inches so diminutive
 As fears and reasons ? fye, for godly shame !

Hel. No marvel, though you bite so sharp at
 reasons,

You are so empty of them. Should not our father
 Bear the great sway of his affairs with reasons,
 Because your speech hath none, that tells him so ?

Tro. You are for dreams and slumbers, brother
 priest,

You fur your gloves with reason. Here are your
 reasons :

You know, an enemy intends you harm ;
 You know, a sword employ'd is perilous,
 And reason flies the object of all harm :
 Who marvels then, when Helenus beholds
 A Grecian and his sword, if he do set
 The very wings of reason to his heels ;
 And fly like chidden Mercury from Jove,
 Or like a star dis-orb'd ?—Nay, if we talk of reason,
 Let's shut our gates, and sleep : Manhood and honour
 Should have hare hearts, would they but eat their
 thoughts

With this cramm'd reason ; reason and respect⁶
 Make livers pale, and lustihood deject.

Hect. Brother, she is not worth what she doth cost
 The holding.

Tro. What is aught, but as 'tis valued ?

⁵ The past-proportion of his infinite ?] i. e. that greatness to which no measure bears any proportion.

⁶ — reason and respect,
 Make livers pale, &c.] Respect is caution, a regard to consequences.

Hect. But value dwells not in particular will ;
 It holds his estimate and dignity
 As well wherein 'tis precious of itself
 As in the prizer : 'tis mad idolatry,
 To make the service greater than the god ;
 And the will dotes, that is attributive⁷
 To what infectiously itself affects,
 Without some image of the affected merit.

Tro. I take to-day a wife, and my election
 Is led on in the conduct of my will ;
 My will enkindled by mine eyes and ears,
 Two traded pilots 'twixt the dangerous shores
 Of will and judgment : How may I avoid,
 Although my will distaste what it elected,
 The wife I chose ? there can be no evasion
 To blench from this, and to stand firm by honour :
 We turn not back the silks upon the merchant,
 When we have soil'd them : nor the remainder viands
 We do not throw in unrespective sieve,⁸
 Because we now are full. It was thought meet,
 Paris should do some vengeance on the Greeks :
 Your breath with full consent⁹ bellied his sails ;
 The seas and winds (old wranglers) took a truce,
 And did him service : he touch'd the ports desir'd ;
 And, for an old aunt,¹ whom the Greeks held captive,
 He brought a Grecian queen, whose youth and
 freshness

Wrinkles Apollo's, and makes pale the morning.
 Why keep we her ? the Grecians keep our aunt :

⁷ *And the will dotes, that is attributive —*] i. e. *the will dotes that attributes or gives the qualities which it affects ; that first causes excellence, and then admires it.*

⁸ *— unrespective sieve,*] That is, unto a common voider.

⁹ *Your breath with full consent —*] Your breaths all blowing together ; your unanimous approbation.

¹ *And, for an old aunt,*] Priam's sister, Hesione, whom Hercules, being enraged at Priam's breach of faith, gave to Telamon, who by her had Ajax.

Is she worth keeping? why, she is a pearl,
 Whose price hath launch'd above a thousand ships,
 And turn'd crown'd kings to merchants.
 If you'll avouch, 'twas wisdom Paris went,
 (As you must needs, for you all cry'd—*Go, go,*)
 If you'll confess, he brought home noble prize,
 (As you must needs, for you all clapp'd your hands,
 And cry'd—*Inestimable!*) why do you now
 The issue of your proper wisdoms rate;
 And do a deed that fortune never did,²
 Beggar the estimation which you priz'd
 Richer than sea and land? O theft most base;
 That we have stolen what we do fear to keep!
 But, thieves, unworthy of a thing so stolen,
 That in their country did them that disgrace,
 We fear to warrant in our native place!

Cas. [*Within.*] Cry, Trojans, cry!

Pri. What noise? what shriek is this?

Tro. 'Tis our mad sister, I do know her voice.

Cas. [*Within.*] Cry, Trojans!

Hect. It is Cassandra.

Enter CASSANDRA, raving.

Cas. Cry, Trojans, cry! lend me ten thousand eyes,
 And I will fill them with prophetick tears,

Hect. Peace, sister, peace.

Cas. Virgins and boys, mid-age and wrinkled
 elders,

Soft infancy, that nothing canst but cry,
 Add to my clamours! let us pay betimes
 A moiety of that mass of moan to come.
 Cry, Trojans, cry! practise your eyes with tears!
 Troy must not be, nor goodly Ilion stand;
 Our fire-brand brother, Paris,³ burns us all.

² And do a deed that fortune never did,] i. e. act with more
 inconstancy and caprice than ever did fortune.

Cry, Trojans, cry! a Helen, and a woe:
Cry, cry! Troy burns, or else let Helen go. [*Exit.*

Hect. Now, youthful Troilus, do not these high strains

Of divination in our sister work
Some touches of remorse? or is your blood
So madly hot, that no discourse of reason,
Nor fear of bad success in a bad cause,
Can qualify the same?

Tro. Why, brother Hector,
We may not think the justness of each act
Such and no other than event doth form it;
Nor once deject the courage of our minds,
Because Cassandra's mad; her brain-sick raptures
Cannot distaste⁴ the goodness of a quarrel,
Which hath our several honours all engag'd
To make it gracious.⁵ For my private part,
I am no more touch'd than all Priam's sons:
And Jove forbid, there should be done amongst us
Such things as might offend the weakest spleen
To fight for and maintain!

Par. Else might the world convince of levity⁶
As well my undertakings as your counsels:
But I attest the gods, your full consent⁷
Gave wings to my propension, and cut off
All fears attending on so dire a project.
For what, alas, can these my single arms?
What propugnation is in one man's valour,

³ *Our fire-brand brother,*] Hecuba, when pregnant with Paris, dreamed she should be delivered of a burning torch.

⁴ — *distaste,*] Corrupt; change to a worse state.

⁵ *To make it gracious.*] i. e. to set it off; to show it to advantage.

⁶ — *convince of levity* —] This word, which our author frequently employs in the obsolete sense of—to *overpower*, *subdue*, seems, in the present instance, to signify—*convict*, or *subject to the charge of levity*.

⁷ — *your full consent* —] Your unanimous approbation.

To stand the push and enmity of those
 This quarrel would excite? Yet, I protest,
 Were I alone to pass the difficulties,
 And had as ample power as I have will,
 Paris should ne'er retract what he hath done,
 Nor faint in the pursuit.

Pri. Paris, you speak
 Like one besotted on your sweet delights :
 You have the honey still, but these the gall ;
 So to be valiant, is no praise at all.

Par. Sir, I propose not merely to myself
 The pleasures such a beauty brings with it ;
 But I would have the soil of her fair rape
 Wip'd off, in honourable keeping her.
 What treason were it to the ransack'd queen,
 Disgrace to your great worths, and shame to me,
 Now to deliver her possession up,
 On terms of base compulsion? Can it be,
 That so degenerate a strain as this,
 Should once set footing in your generous bosoms?
 There's not the meanest spirit on our party,
 Without a heart to dare, or sword to draw,
 When Helen is defended ; nor none so noble,
 Whose life were ill bestow'd, or death unfam'd,
 Where Helen is the subject : then, I say,
 Well may we fight for her, whom, we know well,
 The world's large spaces cannot parallel.

Hect. Paris, and Troilus, you have both said well ;
 And on the cause and question now in hand
 Have gloz'd,⁸—but superficially ; not much
 Unlike young men, whom Aristotle⁹ thought
 Unfit to hear moral philosophy ;

⁸ *Have gloz'd,*] *Have commented.*

⁹ — *Aristotle* —] Let it be remembered, as often as Shakespeare's anachronisms occur, that errors in computing time were very frequent in those ancient romances which seem to have formed the greater part of his library.

The reasons, you allege, do more conduce
To the hot passion of distemper'd blood,
Than to ~~make up~~ a free determination
Twixt right and wrong; for pleasure, and revenge,
Have ears more deaf than adders to the voice
Of any true decision. Nature craves,
All dues be render'd to their owners; Now
What nearer debt in all humanity,
Than wife is to the husband? if this law
Of nature be corrupted through affection;
And that great minds, of partial indulgence¹
To their benumbed wills² resist the same;
There is a law in each well-order'd nation,
To curb those raging appetites that are
Most disobedient and refractory.
If Helen then be wife to Sparta's king,—
As it is known she is,—these moral laws
Of nature, and of nations, speak aloud
To have her back return'd: Thus to persist
In doing wrong extenuates not wrong,
But makes it much more heavy. Hector's opinion
Is this, in way of truth:³ yet, ne'ertheless,
My spritely brethen, I propend to you
In resolution to keep Helen still;
For 'tis a cause that hath no mean dependance
Upon our joint and several dignities.

Tro. Why, there you touch'd the life of our design:
Were it not glory that we more affected
Than the performance of our heaving spleens,⁴
I would not wish a drop of Trojan blood

¹ — of partial indulgence —] i. e. through partial indulgence.

² — benumbed wills,] That is, inflexible, immoveable, no longer obedient to superior direction.

³ Is this, in way of truth:] Though considering truth and justice in this question, this is my opinion; yet as a question of honour, I think on it as you. JOHNSON.

⁴ — the performance of our heaving spleens,] The execution of spirit and resentment.

Spent more in her defence. But, worthy Hector,
 She is a theme of honour and renown;
 A spur to valiant and magnanimous deeds;
 Whose present courage may beat down our foes,
 And fame, in time to come, canonize us:⁵
 For, I presume, brave Hector would not lose
 So rich advantage of a promis'd glory,
 As smiles upon the forehead of this action,
 For the wide world's revenue.

Hect. I am yours,
 You valiant offspring of great Priamus.—
 I have a roisting challenge sent amongst
 The dull and factious nobles of the Greeks,
 Will strike amazement to their drowsy spirits:
 I was advértis'd, their great general slept,
 Whilst emulation⁶ in the army crept;
 This, I presume, will wake him. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

The Grecian Camp. Before Achilles' Tent.

Enter THERSITES.

Ther. How now, Thersites? what, lost in the labyrinth of thy fury? Shall the elephant Ajax carry it thus? he beats me, and I rail at him: O worthy satisfaction! 'would, it were otherwise; that I could beat him, whilst he railed at me: 'Sfoot, I'll learn to conjure and raise devils, but I'll see some issue of my spiteful execrations. Then there's Achilles,—a rare engineer. If Troy be not taken till these two

⁵ — canonize us:] The hope of being registered as a saint, is rather out of its place at the Trojan war.

⁶ — emulation —] That is, envy, factious contention. *Emulation* is now never used in an ill sense; but Shakspeare meant to employ it so.

undermine it, the walls will stand till they fall of themselves. O thou great thunder-darter of Olympus, forget that thou art Jove the king of gods; and, Mercury, lose all the serpentine craft of thy *Caduceus*; ⁷ if ye take not that little little less-than-little wit from them that they have! which short-armed ignorance itself knows is so abundant scarce, it will not in circumvention deliver a fly from a spider, without drawing their massy irons, ⁸ and cutting the web. After this, the vengeance on the whole camp! or, rather, the bone-ache! for that, methinks, is the curse dependant on those that war for a placket. I have said my prayers; and devil, envy, say Amen. What, ho! my lord Achilles!

Enter PATROCLUS.

Patr. Who's there? Thersites? good Thersites, come in and rail.

Ther. If I could have remembered a gilt counterfeit, thou wouldest not have slipped out of my contemplation: but it is no matter; Thyself upon thyself! The common curse of mankind, folly and ignorance, be thine in great revenue! heaven bless thee from a tutor, and discipline come not near thee! Let thy blood be thy direction ⁹ till thy death! then if she, that lays thee out, says—thou art a fair corse, I'll be sworn and sworn upon't, she never shrouded any but lazars. Amen. Where's Achilles?

Patr. What, art thou devout? wast thou in prayer?

⁷ — *the serpentine craft of thy Caduceus;*] The wand of Mercury is wreathed with *serpents*.

⁸ — *without drawing their massy irons,*] That is, *without drawing the swords to cut their web*. They use no means but those of violence. JOHNSON.

⁹ *Let thy blood be thy direction* —] Thy *blood* means, thy passions; thy natural propensities.

Ther. Ay; The heavens hear me!

Enter **ACHILLES.**

Achil. Who's there?

Patr. Thersites, my lord.

Achil. Where, where?—Art thou come? Why, my cheese, my digestion, why hast thou not served thyself in to my table so many meals? Come; what's Agamemnon?

Ther. Thy commander, Achilles;—Then tell me, Patroclus, what's Achilles?

Patr. Thy lord, Thersites; Then tell me, I pray thee, what's thyself?

Ther. Thy knower, Patroclus; Then tell me, Patroclus, what art thou?

Patr. Thou mayest tell, that knowest.

Achil. O, tell, tell.

Ther. I'll decline¹ the whole question. Agamemnon commands Achilles; Achilles is my lord; I am Patroclus' knower; and Patroclus is a fool.

Patr. You rascal!

Ther. Peace, fool; I have not done.

Achil. He is a privileged man.—Proceed, Thersites.

Ther. Agamemnon is a fool; Achilles is a fool; Thersites is a fool; and, as aforesaid, Patroclus is a fool.

Achil. Derive this; come.

Ther. Agamemnon is a fool to offer to command Achilles; Achilles is a fool to be commanded of Agamemnon; Thersites is a fool to serve such a fool; and Patroclus is a fool positive.

Patr. Why am I a fool?

Ther. Make that demand of the prover.—It suffices me, thou art. Look you, who comes here?

¹ — decline —] Deduce the question from the first case to the last.

*Enter AGAMEMNON, ULYSSES, NESTOR, DIOMEDES,
and AJAX.*

Achil. Patroclus, I'll speak with nobody :—Come
in with me, Thersites. *[Exit.*

Ther. Here is such patchery, such juggling, and
such knavery! all the argument is, a cuckold, and
a whore: A good quarrel, to draw emulous factions,
and bleed to death upon. Now the dry *serpigo* on
the subject! and war, and lechery, confound all!
[Exit.

Agam. Where is Achilles?

Patr. Within his tent; but ill-dispos'd, my lord.

Agam. Let it be known to him, that we are here.
He shent our messengers;² and we lay by
Our appertainments, visiting of him:
Let him be told so; lest, perchance, he think
We dare not move the question of our place,
Or know not what we are.

Patr. I shall say so to him.

[Exit.

Ulyss. We saw him at the opening of his tent;
He is not sick.

Ajax. Yes, lion-sick, sick of proud heart: you
may call it melancholy, if you will favour the man;
but, by my head, 'tis pride: But why, why? let him
show us a cause.—A word, my lord.

[Takes AGAMEMNON aside.

Nest. What moves Ajax thus to bay at him?

Ulyss. Achilles hath inveigled his fool from him.

Nest. Who? Thersites?

Ulyss. He.

Nest. Then will Ajax lack matter, if he have lost
his argument.

² *He shent our messengers:]* i. e. rebuked, rated.

Ulyss. No; you see, he is his argument, that has his argument; Achilles.

Nest. All the better; their fraction is more our wish, than their faction: But it was a strong composition, a fool could disunite.

Ulyss. The amity, that wisdom knits not, folly may easily untie. Here comes Patroclus.

Re-enter PATROCLUS.

Nest. No Achilles with him.

Ulyss. The elephant hath joints, but none for courtesy: his legs are legs for necessity, not for flexure.

Patr. Achilles bids me say—he is much sorry,
If any thing more than your sport and pleasure
Did move your greatness, and this noble state,³
To call upon him; he hopes, it is no other,
But, for your health and your digestion sake,
An after-dinner's breath.⁴

Agam. Hear you, Patroclus;—
We are too well acquainted with these answers:
But his evasion, wing'd thus swift with scorn,
Cannot outfly our apprehensions.
Much attribute he hath; and much the reason
Why we ascribe it to him: yet all his virtues,—
Not virtuously on his own part beheld,—
Do, in our eyes, begin to lose their gloss;
Yea, like fair fruit in an unwholesome dish,
Are like to rot untasted. Go and tell him,
We come to speak with him: And you shall not sin,
If you do say—we think him over-proud,
And under-honest; in self-assumption greater,

³ — noble state,] i. e. the stately train of attending nobles whom you bring with you.

⁴ — breath,] *Breath*, in the present instance, stands for breathing, i. e. exercise.

Than in the note of judgment; and worthier than himself

Here tend the savage strangeness⁵ he puts on;
Disguise the holy strength of their command,
And underwrite⁶ in an observing kind⁷
His humorous predominance; yea, watch
His pettish luns, his ebbs, his flows, as if
The passage and whole carriage of this action
Rode on his tide. Go, tell him this; and add,
That, if he overhold his price so much,
We'll none of him; but let him, like an engine
Not portable, lie under this report—
Bring action hither, this cannot go to war:
A stirring dwarf we do allowance give⁸
Before a sleeping giant:—Tell him so.

Patr. I shall; and bring his answer presently.

[*Erit.*

Agam. In second voice we'll not be satisfied,
We come to speak with him.—Ulysses, enter.

[*Exit* ULYSSES.

Ajax. What is he more than another?

Agam. No more than what he thinks he is.

Ajax. Is he so much? Do you not think, he
thinks himself a better man than I am?

Agam. No question.

Ajax. Will you subscribe his thought, and say—
he is?

Agam. No, noble Ajax; you are as strong, as
valiant, as wise, no less noble, much more gentle,
and altogether more tractable.

Ajax. Why should a man be proud? How doth
pride grow? I know not what pride is.

⁵ — tend the savage strangeness —] i. e. shyness, distant behaviour. To tend is to attend upon.

⁶ — underwrite —] To subscribe, in Shakspeare, is to obey.

⁷ — in an observing kind —] i. e. in a mode religiously attentive.

⁸ — allowance give —] Allowance is approbation.

Agam. Your mind's the clearer, Ajax, and your virtues the fairer. He that is proud, eats up himself: pride is his own glass, his own trumpet, his own chronicle; and whatever praises itself but in the deed, devours the deed in the praise.

Ajax. I do hate a proud man, as I hate the engendering of toads.

Nest. And yet he loves himself: Is it not strange?

[*Aside.*

Re-enter ULYSSES.

Ulyss. Achilles will not to the field to-morrow.

Agam. What's his excuse?

Ulyss. He doth rely on none;

But carries on the stream of his dispose,
Without observance or respect of any,
In will peculiar and in self-admission.

Agam. Why will he not, upon our fair request,
Untent his person, and share the air with us?

Ulyss. Things small as nothing, for request's sake only,

He makes important: Possess'd he is with greatness;
And speaks not to himself, but with a pride
That quarrels at self-breath: imagin'd worth
Holds in his blood such swoln and hot discourse,
That, 'twixt his mental and his active parts,
Kingdom'd Achilles in commotion rages,
And batters down himself: What should I say?
He is so plaguy proud, that the death tokens of it⁹
Cry—*No recovery.*

Agam. Let Ajax go to him.—

Dear lord, go you and greet him in his tent:
'Tis said, he holds you well; and will be led,
At your request, a little from himself.

⁹ — the death-tokens of it —] Alluding to the decisive spots appearing on those infected by the plague.

Ulyss. O Agamemnon, let it not be so!
We'll consecrate the steps that Ajax makes
When they go from Achilles: Shall the proud
lord,
That bastes his arrogance with his own seam;
And never suffers matter of the world
Enter his thoughts,—save such as do revolve
And ruminate himself,—shall he be worshipp'd
Of that we hold an idol more than he?
No, this thrice worthy and right valiant lord
Must not so stale his palm, nobly acquir'd;
Nor, by my will, assubjugate his merit,
As amply titled as Achilles is,
By going to Achilles:
That were to enlard his fat-already pride;
And add more coals to Cancer, when he burns
With entertaining great Hyperion.
This lord go to him! Jupiter forbid;
And say in thunder—*Achilles, go to him.*

Nest. O, this is well; he rubs the vein of him.

[Aside.
Dio. And how his silence drinks up this applause!

Ajar. If I go to him, with my arm'd fist I'll
pash him' [*Aside.*

Over the face.

Agam. O, no, you shall not go.

Ajar. An he be proud with me, I'll phleeze his
pride:⁴

Let me go to him.

¹ ——— with his own seam ;] *Swine-seam*, in the North, is *hog's-lard*.

^a *That were to enlard, &c.*] This is only the well-known proverb—*Grease a fat sow, &c.* in a more stately dress.

⁹ ——— *I'll pash him* — i. e. strike him with violence.

4 — pheeze his pride :] To pheeze is to comb or curry.

Ulyss. Not for the worth⁵ that hangs upon our quarrel.

Ajax. A paltry, insolent fellow,——

Nest. How he describes Himself! [Aside.]

Ajax. Can he not be sociable?

Ulyss. The raven Chides blackness. [Aside.]

Ajax. I will let his humours blood.

Agam. He'll be physician, that should be the patient. [Aside.]

Ajax. An all men

Were o'my mind,——

Ulyss. Wit would be out of fashion. [Aside.]

Ajax. He should not bear it so,
He should eat swords first: Shall pride carry it?

Nest. An 'twould, you'd carry half. [Aside.]

Ulyss. He'd have ten shares. [Aside.]

Ajax. I'll knead him, I will make him supple:——

Nest. He's not yet thorough warm: force him⁶ with praises:

Pour in, pour in; his ambition is dry. [Aside.]

Ulyss. My lord, you feed too much on this dislike. [To AGAMEMNON.]

Nest. O noble general, do not do so.

Dio. You must prepare to fight without Achilles.

Ulyss. Why, 'tis this naming of him does him harm.

Here is a man—But 'tis before his face;

I will be silent.

Nest. Wherefore should you so?

⁵ *Not for the worth* —] Not for the value of all for which we are fighting.

⁶ — *force him* —] i. e. stuff him. *Farcir*, Fr.

He is not emulous,⁷ as Achilles is.

Ulyss. Know the whole world, he is as valiant.

Ajax. A whoreson dog, that shall palter⁸ thus with us !

I would, he were a Trojan !

Nest.

What a vice

Were it in Ajax now——

Ulyss. If he were proud ?

Dio. Or covetous of praise ?

Ulyss. Ay, or surly borne ?

Dio. Or strange, or self-affected ?

Ulyss. Thank the heavens, lord, thou art of sweet composure ;

Praise him that got thee, she that gave thee suck :

Fam'd be thy tutor, and thy parts of nature

Thrice-fam'd, beyond all erudition :

But he that disciplin'd thy arms to fight,

Let Mars divide eternity in twain,

And give him half : and, for thy vigour,

Bull-bearing Milo his addition yield⁹

To sinewy Ajax. I will not praise thy wisdom,

Which, like a bourn,¹ a pale, a shore, confines

Thy spacious and dilated parts : Here's Nestor,—

Instructed by the antiquary times,

He must, he is, he cannot but be wise ;—

But pardon, father Nestor, were your days

⁷ *He is not emulous,*] *Emulous*, in this instance, and perhaps in some others, may well enough be supposed to signify—*jealous of higher authority*.

⁸ — *that shall palter* —] That shall juggle with us, or fly from his engagements.

⁹ *Bull-bearing Milo his addition yield* —] i. e. yield his *titles*, his celebrity for strength. *Addition*, in legal language, is the title given to each party, showing his degree, occupation, &c. as esquire, gentleman, yeoman, merchant, &c.

Our author here, as usual, pays no regard to chronology. Milo of Croton lived long after the Trojan war.

¹ — *like a bourn,*] A *bound* is a boundary, and sometimes a rivulet dividing one place from another.

As green as Ajax, and your brain so temper'd,
 You should not have the eminence of him,
 But be as Ajax.

Ajar. Shall I call you father?

Nest. Ay, my good son.

Dio. Be rul'd by him, lord Ajax.

Ulyss. There is no tarrying here; the hart Achilles
 Keeps thicket. Please it our great general
 To call together all his state of war;
 Fresh kings are come to Troy: To-morrow,
 We must with all our main of power stand fast:
 And here's a lord,—come knights from east to west,
 And cull their flower, Ajax shall cope the best.

Agam. Go we to council. Let Achilles sleep:
 Light boats sail swift, though greater hulks draw
 deep. [*Exeunt.*]

ACT III.

SCENE I. Troy. A Room in Priam's Palace.

Enter PANDARUS and a Servant.

Pan. Friend! you! pray you, a word: Do not
 you follow the young lord Paris?

Serv. Ay, sir, when he goes before me.

Pan. You do depend upon him, I mean?

Serv. Sir, I do depend upon the lord.

Pan. You do depend upon a noble gentleman; I
 must needs praise him.

Serv. The lord be praised!

Pan. You know me, do you not?

Serv. 'Faith, sir, superficially.

Pan. Friend, know me better; I am the lord
 Pandarus.

Serv. I hope, I shall know your honour better.

Pan. I do desire it.

Serv. You are in the state of grace.

[*Musick within.*]

Pan. Grace! not so, friend; honour and lordship are my titles:—What musick is this?

Serv. I do but partly know, sir; it is musick in parts.

Pan. Know you the musicians?

Serv. Wholly, sir.

Pan. Who play they to?

Serv. To the hearers, sir.

Pan. At whose pleasure, friend?

Serv. At mine, sir, and theirs that love musick.

Pan. Command, I mean, friend.

Serv. Who shall I command, sir?

Pan. Friend, we understand not one another; I am too courtly, and thou art too cunning: At whose request do these men play?

Serv. That's to't, indeed, sir: Marry, sir, at the request of Paris my lord, who is there in person; with him, the mortal Venus, the heart-blood of beauty, love's invisible soul,—

Pan. Who, my cousin Cressida?

Serv. No, sir, Helen; Could you not find out that by her attributes?

Pan. It should seem, fellow, that thou hast not seen the lady Cressida. I come to speak with Paris from the prince Troilus: I will make a complimental assault upon him, for my business seeths.

Serv. Sodden business! there's a stewed phrase, indeed!

Enter PARIS and HELEN, attended.

Pan. Fair be to you, my lord, and to all this fair company! fair desires, in all fair measure, fairly

guide them! especially to you, fair queen! fair thoughts be your fair pillow!

Helen. Dear lord, you are full of fair words.

Pan. You speak your fair pleasure, sweet queen.—Fair prince, here is good broken musick.

Par. You have broke it, cousin: and, by my life, you shall make it whole again; you shall piece it out with a piece of your performance:—Nell, he is full of harmony.

Pan. Truly, lady, no.

Helen. O, sir,——

Pan. Rude, in sooth; in good sooth, very rude.

Par. Well said, my lord! well, you say so in fits.¹

Pan. I have business to my lord, dear queen:—My lord, will you vouchsafe me a word?

Helen. Nay, this shall not hedge us out: we'll hear you sing, certainly.

Pan. Well, sweet queen, you are pleasant with me.—But (marry) thus, my lord,—My dear lord, and most esteemed friend, your brother Troilus—

Helen. My lord Pandarus; honey-sweet lord,—

Pan. Go to, sweet queen, go to:—commends himself most affectionately to you.

Helen. You shall not bob us out of our melody; If you do, our melancholy upon your head!

Pan. Sweet queen, sweet queen; that's a sweet queen, i'faith.

Helen. And to make a sweet lady sad, is a sour offence.

Pan. Nay, that shall not serve your turn; that shall it not, in truth, la. Nay, I care not for such words: no, no.—And, my lord, he desires you, that, if the king call for him at supper, you will make his excuse.

¹ — in fits.] i. e. now and then, by fits; or perhaps a quibble is intended. A *fit* was a part or division of a song, sometimes a strain in musick, and sometimes a measure in dancing.

Helen. My lord Pandarus,——

Pan. What says my sweet queen,—my very very sweet queen ?

Par. What exploit's in hand ? where sups he to-night ?

Helen. Nay, but my lord,——

Pan. What says my sweet queen ?—My cousin will fall out with you. You must not know where he sups.

Par. I'll lay my life, with my disposer Cressida.

Pan. No, no, no such matter, you are wide;³ come, your disposer is sick.

Par. Well, I'll make excuse.

Pan. Ay, good my lord. Why should you say—Cressida ? no, your poor disposer's sick.

Par. I spy.

Pan. You spy ! what do you spy ?—Come, give me an instrument.—Now, sweet queen.

Helen. Why, this is kindly done.

Pan. My niece is horribly in love with a thing you have, sweet queen.

Helen. She shall have it, my lord, if it be not my lord Paris.

Pan. He ! no, she'll none of him ; they two are twain.

Helen. Falling in, after falling out, may make them three.

Pan. Come, come, I'll hear no more of this ; I'll sing you a song now.

Helen. Ay, ay, pr'ythee now. By my troth, sweet lord, thou hast a fine forehead.

Pan. Ay, you may, you may.

Helen. Let thy song be love : this love will undo us all. O, Cupid, Cupid, Cupid !

Pan. Love ! ay, that it shall, i'faith.

³ — you are wide ;] i. e. wide of your mark ; a common exclamation when an archer missed his aim.

Par. Ay, good now, love, love, nothing but love.

Pan. In good troth, it begins so :

Love, love, nothing but love, still more !

For, oh, love's bow

Shoots buck and doe :

The shaft confounds,

Not that it wounds

But tickles still the sore.

These lovers cry—Oh ! oh ! they die !

Yet that which seems the wound to kill,

Doth turn oh ! oh ! to ha ! ha ! he !

So dying love lives still :

Oh ! oh ! a while, but ha ! ha ! ha !

Oh ! oh ! groans out for ha ! ha ! ha !

Hey ho !

Helen. In love, i'faith, to the very tip of the nose.

Par. He eats nothing but doves, love ; and that breeds hot blood, and hot blood begets hot thoughts, and hot thoughts beget hot deeds, and hot deeds is love.

Pan. Is this the generation of love ? hot blood, hot thoughts, and hot deeds ?—Why, they are vipers : Is love a generation of vipers ? Sweet lord, who's a-field to-day ?

Par. Hector, Deiphobus, Helenus, Antenor, and all the gallantry of Troy : I would fain have armed to-night, but my Nell would not have it so. How chance my brother Troilus went not ?

Helen. He hangs the lip at something ;—you know all, lord Pandarus.

Pan. Not I, honey-sweet queen.—I long to hear how they sped to-day.—You'll remember your brother's excuse ?

Par. To a hair.

Pan. Farewell, sweet queen.

Helen. Commend me to your niece.

Pan. I will, sweet queen. *[Exit.*

[A Retreat sounded.]

Par. They are come from field: let us to Priam's hall,

To greet the warriors. Sweet Helen, I must woo you

To help unarm our Hector: his stubborn buckles,
With these your white enchanting fingers touch'd,
Shall more obey, than to the edge of steel,
Or force of Greekish sinews; you shall do more
Than all the island kings, disarm great Hector.

Helen. 'Twill make us proud to be his servant,

Paris:

Yea, what he shall receive of us in duty,
Give us more palm in beauty than we have;
Yea, overshines ourself.

Par. Sweet, above thought I love thee.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE II.

The same. Pandarus' Orchard.

Enter PANDARUS and a Servant, meeting.

Pan. How now? where's thy master? at my cousin Cressida's?

Serv. No, sir; he stays for you to conduct him hither.

Enter TROILUS.

Pan. O, here he comes,—How now, how now?

Tro. Sirrah, walk off. *[Exit Servant.]*

Pan. Have you seen my cousin?

Tro. No, Pandarus : I stalk about her door,
 Like a strange soul upon the Stygian banks
 Staying for waftage. O, be thou my Charon,
 And give me swift transportance to those fields,
 Where I may wallow in the lily beds
 Propos'd for the deserver ! O gentle Pandarus,
 From Cupid's shoulder pluck his painted wings,
 And fly with me to Cressid !

Pan. Walk here i'the orchard, I'll bring her straight.

[*Exit* PANDARUS.]

Tro. I am giddy ; expectation whirls me round.
 The imaginary relish is so sweet
 That it enchants my sense ; What will it be,
 When that the watry palate tastes indeed
 Love's thrice-reputed nectar ? death, I fear me ;
 Swooning destruction ; or some joy too fine,
 Too subtle-potent, tun'd too sharp in sweetness,
 For the capacity of my ruder powers :
 I fear it much ; and I do fear besides,
 That I shall lose distinction in my joys ;
 As doth a battle, when they charge on heaps
 The enemy flying.

Re-enter PANDARUS.

Pan. She's making her ready, she'll come straight :
 you must be witty now. She does so blush, and
 fetches her wind so short, as if she were frayed
 with a sprite : I'll fetch her. It is the prettiest
 villain :—she fetches her breath as short as a new-
 ta'en sparrow.

[*Exit* PANDARUS.]

Tro. Even such a passion doth embrace my bosom :
 My heart beats thicker than a feverous pulse ;
 And all my powers do their bestowing lose,
 Like vassalage at unawares encount'ring
 The eye of majesty.

Enter PANDARUS and CRESSIDA.

Pan. Come, come, what need you blush? shame's a baby.—Here she is now: swear the oaths now to her, that you have sworn to me.—What, are you gone again? you must be watched ere you be made tame, must you? Come your ways, come your ways; an you draw backward, we'll put you i'the fills.⁴—Why do you not speak to her?—Come, draw this curtain, and let's see your picture. Alas the day, how loath you are to offend daylight! an'twere dark, you'd close sooner. So, so; rub on, and kiss the mistress.⁵ How now, a kiss in fee-farm! build there, carpenter; the air is sweet. Nay, you shall fight your hearts out, ere I part you. The falcon as the tercel,⁶ for all the ducks i'the river: go to, go to.

Tro. You have bereft me of all words, lady.

Pan. Words pay no debts, give her deeds: but she'll bereave you of the deeds too, if she call your activity in question. What, billing again? Here's—*In witness whereof the parties interchangeably*—Come in, come in; I'll go get a fire.

[*Exit PANDARUS.*

Cres. Will you walk in, my lord?

Tro. O Cressida, how often have I wished me thus?

Cres. Wished, my lord?—The gods grant!—O my lord!

⁴ — *i'the fills.*] That is, in the shafts. *Fill* is a provincial word used in some counties for *thills*, the shafts of a cart or waggon.

⁵ *So, so; rub on, and kiss the mistress.*] The allusion is to *bowling*. What we now call *the jack*, seems, in Shakspeare's time, to have been termed *the mistress*. A bowl that kisses *the jack*, or *mistress*, is in the most advantageous situation. *Rub on* is a term at the same game.

⁶ *The falcon as the tercel*—] Pandarus means, that he'll match his niece against her lover for any bett. The *tercle* is the *male hawk*; by the *falcon* we generally understand the *female*.

Tro. What should they grant ? what makes this pretty abruption ? What too curious dreg espies my sweet lady in the fountain of our love ?

Cres. More dregs than water, if my fears have eyes.

Tro. Fears make devils cherubins ; they never see truly.

Cres. Blind fear, that seeing reason leads, finds safer footing than blind reason stumbling without fear : To fear the worst, oft cures the worst.

Tro. O, let my lady apprehend no fear : in all Cupid's pageant there is presented no monster.

Cres. Nor nothing monstrous neither ?

Tro. Nothing, but our undertakings ; when we vow to weep seas, live in fire, eat rocks, tame tigers ; thinking it harder for our mistress to devise imposition enough, than for us to undergo any difficulty imposed. This is the monstrosity in love, lady,—that the will is infinite, and the execution confined ; that the desire is boundless, and the act a slave to limit.

Cres. They say, all lovers swear more performance than they are able, and yet reserve an ability that they never perform ; vowing more than the perfection of ten, and discharging less than the tenth part of one. They that have the voice of lions, and the act of hares, are they not monsters ?

Tro. Are there such ? such are not we : Praise us as we are tasted, allow us as we prove ; our head shall go bare, till merit crown it : no perfection in reversion shall have a praise in present : we will not name desert, before his birth ; and, being born, his addition shall be humble.¹ Few words to fair faith : Troilus shall be such to Cressid, as what envy can

¹ — his addition shall be humble.] We will give him no high or pompous titles. JOHNSON.

say worst, shall be a mock for his truth ;^s and what truth can speak truest, not truer than Troilus.

Cres. Will you walk in, my lord ?

Re-enter PANDARUS.

Pan. What, blushing still ? have you not done talking yet ?

Cres. Well, uncle, what folly I commit, I dedicate to you.

Pan. I thank you for that ; if my lord get a boy of you, you'll give him me : Be true to my lord : if he flinch, chide me for it.

Tro. You know now your hostages ; your uncle's word, and my firm faith.

Pan. Nay, I'll give my word for her too ; our kindred, though they be long ere they are wooed, they are constant, being won : they are burs, I can tell you ; they'll stick where they are thrown.

Cres. Boldness comes to me now, and brings me heart :—

Prince Troilus, I have lov'd you night and day
For many weary months.

Tro. Why was my Cressid then so hard to win ?

Cres. Hard to seem won ; but I was won, my lord,
With the first glance that ever—Pardon me ;—
If I confess much, you will play the tyrant.

I love you now ; but not, till now, so much

But I might master it :—in faith, I lie ;

My thoughts were like unbridled children, grown

Too headstrong for their mother : See, we fools !

Why have I blabb'd ? who shall be true to us,

^s — *what envy can say worst, shall be a mock for his truth ;*]
i. e. shall be *only* a mock for his truth. Even malice (for such is the meaning of the word *envy*) shall not be able to impeach his truth, or attack him in any other way, except by ridiculing him for his constancy.

When we are so unsecret to ourselves?
 But, though I lov'd you well, I woo'd you not;
 And yet, good faith, I wish'd myself a man?
 Or that we women had men's privilege
 Of speaking first. Sweet, bid me hold my tongue;
 For, in this rapture, I shall surely speak
 The thing I shall repent. See, see, your silence,
 Cunning in dumbness, from my weakness draws
 My very soul of counsel: Stop my mouth.

Tro. And shall, albeit sweet musick issues thence.

Pan. Pretty, i'faith.

Cres. My lord, I do beseech you, pardon me:
 'Twas not my purpose, thus to beg a kiss:
 I am asham'd;—O heavens! what have I done?—
 For this time will I take my leave, my lord.

Tro. Your leave, sweet Cressid?

Pan. Leave! an you take leave till to-morrow
 morning,—

Cres. Pray you, content you.

Tro. What offends you, lady?

Cres. Sir, mine own company.

Tro. You cannot shun
 Yourself.

Cres. Let me go and try:
 I have a kind of self resides with you:
 But an unkind self, that itself will leave,
 To be another's fool. I would be gone:—
 Where is my wit? I know not what I speak.

Tro. Well know they what they speak, that speak
 so wisely.

Cres. Perchance, my lord, I show more craft than
 love;

And fell so roundly to a large confession,
 To angle for your thoughts: But you are wise;
 Or else you love not; For to be wise, and love,
 Exceeds man's might; that dwells with gods above.

Tro. O, that I thought it could be in a woman,

(As, if it can, I will presume in you,)
 To feed for aye her lamp and flames of love;
 To keep her constancy in plight and youth,
 Outliving beauty's outward, with a mind
 That doth renew swifter than blood decays!
 Or, that persuasion could but thus convince me,—
 That my integrity and truth to you
 Might be affronted with the match⁹ and weight
 Of such a winnow'd purity in love;
 How were I then uplifted! but, alas,
 I am as true as truth's simplicity,
 And simpler than the infancy of truth.'

Cres. In that I'll war with you.

Tro. O virtuous fight,
 When right with right wars who shall be most right!
 True swains in love shall, in the world to come,
 Approve their truths by Troilus: when their rhymes,
 Full of protest, of oath, and big compare,²
 Want similes, truth tir'd with iteration,—
 As true as steel, as plantage to the moon,
 As sun to day, as turtle to her mate,
 As iron to adamant, as earth to the center,—
 Yet, after all comparisons of truth,
 As truth's authentick author to be cited,³
 As true as Troilus shall crown up⁴ the verse,
 And sanctify the numbers.

Cres.

Prophet may you be!

⁹ *Might be affronted with the match* —] I wish "my integrity might be met and matched with such equality and force of pure unmingled love." JOHNSON.

¹ *And simpler than the infancy of truth,*] This is fine; and means, "Ere truth, to defend itself against deceit in the commerce of the world, had, out of necessity, learned worldly policy."

² — *compare,*] i. e. comparison.

³ *As truth's authentick author to be cited,*] Troilus shall crown the verse, as a man to be cited as the authentick author of truth, as one whose protestations were true to a proverb.

⁴ — *crown up* —] i. e. conclude it.

If I be false, or swerve a hair from truth,
When time is old and hath forgot itself,
When waterdrops have worn the stones of Troy,
And blind oblivion swallow'd cities up,
And mighty states characterless are grated
To dusty nothing; yet let memory
From false to false, among false maids in love,
Upbraid my falsehood! when they have said—as
false

As air, as water, wind, or sandy earth,
As fox to lamb, as wolf to heifer's calf,
Pard to the hind, or stepdame to her son ;
Yea, let them say, to stick the heart of falsehood,
As false as Cressid.

Pan. Go to, a bargain made : seal it, seal it ; I'll be the witness.—Here I hold your hand ; here, my cousin's. If ever you prove false one to another, since I have taken such pains to bring you together, let all pitiful goers-between be called to the world's end after my name, call them all—Pandars ; let all constant men be Troiluses, all false women Cressida, and all brokers-between Pandars ! say, amen.

Tro. Amen.

Cres. Amen.

Pan. Amen. Whereupon I will show you a chamber and a bed, which bed, because it shall not speak of your pretty encounters, press it to death: away.

And Cupid grant all tongue-tied maidens here,
Bed, chamber, Pandar to provide this geer !

[Excent.

SCENE III.

The Grecian Camp.

AGAMEMNON; ULYSSES, DIOMEDES, NESTOR,
AJAX, MENELAUS, *and* CALCHAS.

Now, princes, for the service I have done you,
dvantage of the time prompts me aloud
ll for recompense. Appear it to your mind,
through the sight I bear in things, to Jove
abandon'd Troy, left my possession,
d a traitor's name; expos'd myself,
certain and possess'd conveniences,
ubtful fortunes; séquest'ring me from all
time, acquaintance, custom, and condition,
tame and most familiar to my nature;
ere, to do you service, am become
w into the world, strange, unacquainted:
eseech you, as in way of taste,
ze me now a little benefit,
f those many register'd in promise,
h, you say, live to come in my behalf,
am. What would'st thou of us, Trojan? make
demand.

You have a Trojan prisoner, call'd Antenor,
day took; Troy holds him very dear.
ave you, (often have you thanks therefore,)
d my Cressid in right great exchange,
n Troy hath still denied: But this Antenor,
w, is such a wrest^s in their affairs,
their negotiations all must slack,
ing his manage; and they will almost
us a prince of blood, a son of Priam,

— *such a wrest* —] *Wrest* is an instrument for tuning the
drawing up the strings.

In change of him : let him be sent, great princes,
 And he shall buy my daughter ; and her presence
 Shall quite strike off all service I have done,
 In most accepted pain.⁶

Agam. Let Diomedes bear him,
 And bring us Cressid hither ; Calchas shall have
 What he requests of us.—Good Diomed,
 Furnish you fairly for this interchange :
 Withal, bring word—if Hector will to-morrow
 Be answer'd in his challenge : Ajax is ready.

Dio. This shall I undertake ; and 'tis a burden
 Which I am proud to bear.

[*Exeunt* DIOMEDES and CALCHAS.]

Enter ACHILLES and PATROCLUS, before their Tent.

Ulyss. Achilles stands i'the entrance of his tent :—
 Please it our general to pass strangely by him,
 As if he were forgot ; and, princes all,
 Lay negligent and loose regard upon him :
 I will come last : 'Tis like, he'll question me,
 Why such unplausible eyes are bent, why turn'd on
 him :

If so, I have derision med'cinable,
 To use between your strangeness and his pride,
 Which his own will shall have desire to drink ;
 It may do good : pride hath no other glass
 To show itself, but pride ; for supple knees
 Feed arrogance, and are the proud man's fees.

Agam. We'll execute your purpose, and put on
 A form of strangeness as we pass along ;—
 So do each lord ; and either greet him not,
 Or else disdainfully, which shall shake him more
 Than if not look'd on. I will lead the way.

⁶ *In most accepted pain.*] i. e. *Her presence, says Calchas, shall strike off, or recompense the service I have done, even in those labours which were most accepted.* JOHNSON.

Achil. What, comes the general to speak with me?
You know my mind, I'll fight no more 'gainst Troy.

Agam. What says Achilles? would he aught with
us?

Nest. Would you, my lord, aught with the general?

Achil. No.

Nest. Nothing, my lord.

Agam. The better.

[*Exeunt AGAMEMNON and NESTOR.*]

Achil. Good day, good day.

Men. How do you? how do you?

[*Exit MENELAUS.*]

Achil. What, does the cuckold scorn me?

Ajax. How now, Patroclus?

Achil. Good morrow, Ajax.

Ajax. Ha?

Achil. Good morrow.

Ajax. Ay, and good next day too.

[*Exit AJAX.*]

Achil. What mean these fellows? Know they not
Achilles?

Patr. They pass by strangely: they were us'd to
bend,

To send their smiles before them to Achilles;

To come as humbly, as they us'd to creep

To holy altars.

Achil. What, am I poor of late?

'Tis certain, greatness, once fallen out with fortune,

Must fall out with men too: What the declin'd is,

He shall as soon read in the eyes of others,

As feel in his own fall: for men, like butterflies,

Show not their mealy wings, but to the summer;

And not a man, for being simply man,

Hath any honour; but honour for those honours

That are without him, as place, riches, favour,

Prizes of accident as oft as merit:

Which when they fall, as being slippery standers,

The love that lean'd on them as slippery too,
 Do one pluck down another, and together
 Die in the fall. But 'tis not so with me :
 Fortune and I are friends ; I do enjoy
 At ample point all that I did possess,
 Save these men's looks ; who do, methinks, find out
 Something not worth in me such rich beholding
 As they have often given. Here is Ulysses ;
 I'll interrupt his reading.—
 How now, Ulysses ?

Ulyss. Now, great Thetis' son ?

Achil. What are you reading ?

Ulyss. A strange fellow here
 Writes me, That man—how dearly ever parted,⁷
 How much in having, or without, or in,—
 Cannot make boast to have that which he hath,
 Nor feels not what he owes, but by reflection ;
 As when his virtues shining upon others
 Heat them, and they retort that heat again
 To the first giver.

Achil. This is not strange, Ulysses.
 The beauty that is borne here in the face
 The bearer knows not, but commends itself
 To others' eyes : nor doth the eye itself
 ('That most pure spirit of sense,) behold itself,
 Not going from itself ; but eye to eye oppos'd
 Salutes each other with each other's form.
 For speculation turns not to itself,
 Till it hath travell'd, and is married there
 Where it may see itself : this is not strange at all.

Ulyss. I do not strain at the position,
 It is familiar ; but at the author's drift :
 Who, in his circumstance,⁸ expressly proves—

⁷ — *how dearly ever parted,*] *However excellently endowed,*
 with however dear or precious *parts* enriched or adorned.

⁸ — *in his circumstance,*] *In the detail or circumduction of*
 his argument.

That no man is the lord of any thing,
 (Though in and of him there be much consisting,)
 Till he communicate his parts to others :
 Nor doth he of himself know them for aught
 Till he behold them form'd in the applause
 Where they are extended ; which, like an arch, re-
 verberates

The voice again ; or like a gate of steel
 Fronting the sun, receives and renders back
 His figure and his heat. I was much rapt in this ;
 And apprehended here immediately
 The unknown Ajax.⁹
 Heavens, what a man is there ! a very horse ;
 That has he knows not what. Nature, what things
 there are,

Most abject in regard, and dear in use !
 What things again most dear in the esteem,
 And poor in worth ! Now shall we see to-morrow,
 An act that very chance doth throw upon him,
 Ajax renown'd. O heavens, what some men do,
 While some men leave to do !
 How some men creep in skittish fortune's hall,
 Whiles others play the idiots in her eyes !
 How one man eats into another's pride,
 While pride is fasting in his wantonness !
 To see these Grecian lords !—why, even already
 They clap the lubber Ajax on the shoulder ;
 As if his foot were on brave Hector's breast,
 And great Troy shrinking.

Achil. I do believe it : for they pass'd by me,
 As misers do by beggars ; neither gave to me
 Good word, nor look : What, are my deeds forgot ?

Ulyss. Time hath, my lord, a wallet at his back,
 Wherein he puts alms for oblivion,
 A great-sized monster of ingratitude :

⁹ — *The unknown Ajax,*] Ajax, who has abilities, which
 were never brought into view or use. JOHNSON.

Those scraps are good deeds past : which are devour'd
 As fast as they are made, forgot as soon
 As done : Perséverance, dear my lord,
 Keeps honour bright : To have done, is to hang
 Quite out of fashion, like a rusty mail
 In monumental mockery. Take the instant way ;
 For honour travels in a strait so narrow,
 Where one but goes abreast : keep then the path ;
 For emulation hath a thousand sons,
 That one by one pursue : If you give way,
 Or hedge aside from the direct forthright,
 Like to an enter'd tide, they all rush by,
 And leave you hindmost ;—
 Or, like a gallant horse fallen in first rank,
 Lie there for pavement to the abject rear,
 O'er-run and trampled on : Then what they do in
 present,
 Though less than yours in past, must o'ertop yours :
 For time is like a fashionable host,
 That slightly shakes his parting guest by the hand ;
 And with his arms out-stretch'd, as he would fly,
 Grasps-in the corner : Welcome ever smiles,
 And farewell goes out sighing. O, let not virtue seek
 Remuneration for the thing it was ;
 For beauty, wit,
 High birth, vigour of bone, desert in service,
 Love, friendship, charity, are subjects all
 To envious and calumniating time.
 One touch of nature makes the whole world kin,—
 That all, with one consent, praise new-born gawds,
 Though they are made and moulded of things past ;
 And give to dust, that is a little gilt,
 More laud than gilt o'er-dusted.¹

¹ *And give to dust, that is a little gilt,
 More laud than gilt o'er-dusted.] Dust a little gilt means,
 ordinary performances ostentatiously displayed and magnified by
 the favour of friends and that admiration of novelty which pre-*

The present eye praises the present object :
Then marvel not, thou great and complete man,
That all the Greeks begin to worship Ajax ;
Since things in motion sooner catch the eye,
Than what not stirs. The cry went once on thee,
And still it might ; and yet it may again,
If thou would'st not entomb thyself alive,
And case thy reputation in thy tent ;
Whose glorious deeds, but in these fields of late,
Made emulous missions¹ 'mongst the gods them-
selves,

And drive great Mars to faction.

Achil. Of this my privacy

I have strong reasons.

Ulyss. But 'gainst your privacy

The reasons are more potent and heroical :

'Tis known, Achilles, that you are in love

With one of Priam's daughters.³

Achil. Ha ! known ?

Ulyss. Is that a wonder ?

The providence that's in a watchful state,
Knows almost every grain of Plutus' gold ;
Finds bottom in the uncomprehensive deeps ;
Keeps place with thought, and almost, like the
gods,

Does thoughts unveil in their dumb cradles.

There is a mystery (with whom relation

fers " new-born gawds " to " things past." *Gilt o'er-dusted* means, splendid actions of preceding ages, the remembrance of which is weakened by time.

¹ *Made emulous missions* —] This means the descent of deities to combat on either side ; an idea which Shakspeare very probably adopted from Chapman's translation of Homer. In the fifth Book, Diomed wounds Mars, who on his return to heaven is rated by Jupiter for having interfered in the battle. This disobedience is the *faction* which I suppose Ulysses would describe. STEEVENS.

³ — *one of Priam's daughters.*] Polyxena, in the act of marrying whom, he was afterwards killed by Paris.

Durst never meddle⁴) in the soul of state ;
 Which hath an operation more divine,
 Than breath, or pen, can give expressure to :
 All the commerce that you have had with Troy,
 As perfectly is ours, as yours, my lord ;
 And better would it fit Achilles much,
 To throw down Hector, than Polyxena :
 But it must grieve young Pyrrhus now at home,
 When fame shall in our islands sound her trump ;
 And all the Greekish girls shall tripping sing,—
Great Hector's sister did Achilles win ;
But our great Ajax bravely beat down him.
 Farewell, my lord : I as your lover speak ;
 The fool slides o'er the ice that you should break.

[*Exit,*

Patr. To this effect, Achilles, have I mov'd you :
 A woman impudent and mannish grown
 Is not more loath'd than an effeminate man
 In time of action. I stand condemn'd for this ;
 They think, my little stomach to the war,
 And your great love to me, restrains you thus :
 Sweet, rouse yourself ; and the weak wanton Cupid
 Shall from your neck unloose his amorous fold,
 And, like a dew-drop from the lion's mane,
 Be shook to air.

Achil. Shall Ajax fight with Hector ?

Patr. Ay ; and, perhaps, receive much honour
 by him.

Achil. I see, my reputation is at stake ;
 My fame is shrewdly gor'd.

Patr. O, then beware ;
 Those wounds heal ill, that men do give themselves :
 Omission to do what is necessary⁵

⁴ — (with whom relation
Durst never meddle) —] There is a secret administration of
 affairs, which no history was ever able to discover. JOHNSON.

⁵ Omission to do, &c.] By neglecting our duty we commission of

Seals a commission to a blank of danger ;
And danger, like an ague, subtly taints
Even then when we sit idly in the sun.

Achil. Go call Thersites hither, sweet Patroclus :
I'll send the fool to Ajax, and desire him
To invite the Trojan lords after the combat,
To see us here unarm'd : I have a woman's longing,
An appetite that I am sick withal,
To see great Hector in his weeds of peace ;
To talk with him, and to behold his visage,
Even to my full of view. A labour sav'd !

Enter THERSITES.

Ther. A wonder !

Achil. What ?

Ther. Ajax goes up and down the field, asking
for himself.

Achil. How so ?

Ther. He must fight singly to-morrow with
Hector ; and is so prophetically proud of an heroical
cudgelling, that he raves in saying nothing.

Achil. How can that be ?

Ther. Why, he stalks up and down like a pea-
cock, a stride, and a stand : ruminates, like an
hostess, that hath no arithmetick but her brain to
set down her reckoning : bites his lip with a poli-
tick regard,⁶ as who should say—there were wit in
this head, an 'twould out ; and so there is ; but it
lies as coldly in him as fire in a flint, which will
not show without knocking. The man's undone
for ever ; for if Hector break not his neck i'the
combat, he'll break it himself in vain-glory. He
knows not me : I said, *Good-morrow*, Ajax ; and

enable that danger of *diskonour*, which could not reach us before,
to lay hold upon us. JOHNSON.

⁶ ——— with a *politick regard*,] With a *sly look*.

he replies, *Thanks*, Agamemnon. What think you of this man, that takes me for the general? He is grown a very land fish, languageless, a monster. A plague of opinion! a man may wear it on both sides, like a leather jerkin.

Achil. Thou must be my ambassador to him, Thersites.

Ther. Who, I? why, he'll answer nobody; he professes not answering; speaking is for beggars; he wears his tongue in his arms. I will put on his presence; let Patroclus make demands to me, you shall see the pageant of Ajax.

Achil. To him, Patroclus: Tell him,—I humbly desire the valiant Ajax, to invite the most valorous Hector to come unarmed to my tent; and to procure safe conduct for his person, of the magnanimous, and most illustrious, six-or-seven-times-honoured captain-general of the Grecian army, Agamemnon. Do this.

Patr. Jove bless great Ajax.

Ther. Humph!

Patr. I come from the worthy Achilles,——

Ther. Ha!

Patr. Who most humbly desires you, to invite Hector to his tent!——

Ther. Humph!

Patr. And to procure safe conduct from Agamemnon.

Ther. Agamemnon?

Patr. Ay, my lord.

Ther. Ha!

Patr. What say you to't?

Ther. God be wi' you, with all my heart.

Patr. Your answer, sir.

Ther. If to-morrow be a fair day, by eleven o'clock it will go one way or other; howsoever, he shall pay for me ere he has me.

Patr. Your answer, sir.

Ther. Fare you well, with all my heart.

Achil. Why, but he is not in this tune, is he?

Ther. No, but he's out o'tune thus. What musick will be in him when Hector has knocked out his brains, I know not: But, I am sure, none; unless the fiddler Apollo get his sinews to make catlings on.⁷

Achil. Come, thou shalt bear a letter to him straight.

Ther. Let me bear another to his horse; for that's the more capable creature.⁸

Achil. My mind is troubled, like a fountain stirr'd; And I myself see not the bottom of it.

[*Exeunt* ACHILLES and PATROCLUS.]

Ther. 'Would the fountain of your mind were clear again, that I might water an ass at it! I had rather be a tick in a sheep, than such a valiant ignorance. [*Exit.*

ACT IV.

SCENE I. Troy. A Street.

Enter, at one side, ÆNEAS and Servant, with a Torch; at the other, PARIS, DEIPHOBUS, ANTENOR, DIOMEDES, and Others, with Torches.

Par. See, ho! who's that there?

Dei. 'Tis the lord Æncas.

Æne. Is the prince there in person?—

Had I so good occasion to lie long,

⁷ — to make catlings on.] A catling signifies a small lute-string made of catgut.

⁸ — the more capable creature.] The more intelligent creature.

As you, prince Paris, nothing but heavenly business
Should rob my bed-mate of my company.

Dio. That's my mind too.—Good morrow, lord
Æneas.

Par. A valiant Greek, Æneas; take his hand:
Witness the process of your speech, wherein
You told—how Diomed, a whole week by days,
Did haunt you in the field.

Æne. Health to you, valiant sir,
During all question⁹ of the gentle truce:
But when I meet you arm'd, as black defiance,
As heart can think, or courage execute.

Dio. The one and other Diomed embraces.
Our bloods are now in calm; and, so long, health:
But when contention and occasion meet,
By Jove, I'll play the hunter for thy life,
With all my force, pursuit, and policy.

Æne. And thou shalt hunt a lion, that will fly
With his face backward.—In humane gentleness,
Welcome to Troy! now, by Anchises' life,
Welcome, indeed! By Venus' hand I swear,
No man alive can love, in such a sort,
The thing he means to kill, more excellently.

Dio. We sympathize:—Jove, let Æneas live,
If to my sword his fate be not the glory,
A thousand complete courses of the sun!
But, in mine emulous honour, let him die,
With every joint a wound; and that to-morrow!

Æne. We know each other well.

Dio. We do; and long to know each other
worse.

Par. This is the most despiteful gentle greeting,
The noblest hateful love, that e'er I heard of.—
What business, lord, so early?

⁹ During all question —] Question means intercourse, inter-
change of conversation.

Æne. I was sent for to the king; but why, I know not.

Par. His purpose meets you;¹ 'Twas to bring this Greek

To Calchas' house; and there to render him,
For the enfreed Antenor, the fair Cressid:
Let's have your company; or, if you please,
Haste there before us: I constantly do think,
(Or, rather, call my thought a certain knowledge,)
My brother Troilus lodges there to-night;
Rouse him, and give him note of our approach,
With the whole quality wherefore; I fear,
We shall be much unwelcome.

Æne. That I assure you;
Troilus had rather Troy were borne to Greece,
Than Cressid borne from Troy.

Par. There is no help;
The bitter disposition of the time
Will have it so, On, lord; we'll follow you.

Æne. Good morrow, all. [*Exit.*]

Par. And tell me, noble Diomed; faith, tell me true,

Even in the soul of sound good-fellowship,—
Who, in your thoughts, merits fair Helen best,
Myself, or Menelaus?

Dio. Both alike:
He merits well to have her, that doth seek her
(Not making any scruple of her soilure,)
With such a hell of pain, and world of charge;
And you as well to keep her, that defend her
(Not palating the taste of her dishonour,)
With such a costly loss of wealth and friends:
He, like a puling cuckold, would drink up
The lees and dregs of a flat tamed piece;²

¹ *His purpose meets you;* I bring you his meaning and his orders. JOHNSON.

You, like a lecher, out of whorish loins
 Are pleas'd to breed out your inheritors ;
 Both merits pois'd,³ each weighs nor less nor more;
 But he as he, the heavier for a whore.

Par. You are too bitter to your countrywoman.

Dio. She's bitter to her country: Hear me, Paris.—
 For every false drop in her bawdy veins
 A Grecian's life hath sunk ; for every scruple
 Of her contaminated carrion weight,
 A Trojan hath been slain ; since she could speak,
 She hath not given so many good words breath,
 As for her Greeks and Trojans suffer'd death.

Par. Fair Diomed, you do as chapmen do,
 Dispraise the thing that you desire to buy :
 But we in silence hold this virtue well,—
 We'll not commend what we intend to sell.
 Here lies our way. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.

The same. Court before the House of Pandarus.

Enter TROILUS and CRESSIDA.

Tro. Dear, trouble not yourself; the morn is cold.

Cres. Then, sweet my lord, I'll call mine uncle
 down ;

He shall unbolt the gates.

Tro. Trouble him not ;
 To bed, to bed : Sleep kill those pretty eyes,
 And give as soft attachment to thy senses,
 As infants' empty of all thought !

* — *a flat tamed piece ;*] i. e. a piece of wine out of which the spirit is all flown.

³ *Both merits pois'd, &c.*] The sense appears to be this: the merits of either are sunk in value, because the contest between them is only for a strumpet.

Cres. Good morrow then.

Tro. 'Pr'ythee now, to bed.

Cres. Are you aweary of me?

Tro. O Cressida! but that the busy day,
Wak'd by the lark, hath rous'd the ribald crows,
And dreaming night will hide our joys no longer,
I would not from thee.

Cres. Night hath been too brief.

Tro. Beshrew the witch! with venomous wights
she stays,
As tediously as hell; but flies the grasps of love,
With wings more momentary-swift than thought.
You will catch cold, and curse me.

Cres. 'Pr'ythee, tarry;—
You men will never tarry.—
O foolish Cressid!—I might have still held off,
And then you would have tarried. Hark! there's
one up.

Pan. [*Within.*] What, are all the doors open
here?

Tro. It is your uncle.

Enter PANDARUS.

Cres. A pestilence on him! now will he be
mocking:
I shall have such a life,—

Pan. How now, how now? how go maidenheads?
—Here, you maid! where's my cousin Cressid?

Cres. Go hang yourself, you naughty mocking
uncle!
You bring me to do, and then you flout me too.

Pan. To do what? to do what?—let her say
what: what have I brought you to do?

Cres. Come, come; beshrew your heart! you'll
ne'er be good,
Nor suffer others.

Pan. Ha, ha! Alas, poor wretch! a poor capocchia!—hast not slept to-night? would he not, a naughty man, let it sleep? a bugbear take him!

[*Knocking.*

Cres. Did I not tell you?—'would he were knock'd o'the head!—

Who's that at door? good uncle, go and see.—

My lord, come you again into my chamber:

You smile, and mock me, as if I meant naughtily.

Tro. Ha, ha!

Cres. Come, you are deceiv'd, I think of no such thing.—

[*Knocking.*

How earnestly they knock! pray you, come in;

I would not for half Troy have you seen here.

[*Exeunt TROILUS and CRESSIDA.*

Pan. [*Going to the door.*] Who's there? what's the matter? will you beat down the door? How now? what's the matter?

Enter ÆNEAS.

Æne. Good-morrow, lord, good-morrow.

Pan. Who's there? my lord Æneas? By my troth, I knew you not: what news with you so early?

Æne. Is not prince Troilus here?

Pan. Here! what should he do here?

Æne. Come, he is here, my lord, do not deny him; It doth import him much, to speak with me.

Pan. Is he here, say you? 'tis more than I know, I'll be sworn:—For my own part, I came in late: What should he do here?

Æne. Who!—nay, then:—

Come, come, you'll do him wrong ere you are 'ware:

You'll be so true to him, to be false to him:

Do not you know of him, yet go fetch him hither;

As PANDARUS is going out, enter TROILUS.

Tro. How now ? what's the matter ?

Æne. My lord, I scarce have leisure to salute you,
My matter is so rash :⁺ There is at hand
Paris your brother, and Deiphobus,
The Grecian Diomed, and our Antenor
Deliver'd to us ; and for him forthwith,
Ere the first sacrifice, within this hour,
We must give up to Diomedes' hand
The lady Cressida.

Tro. Is it so concluded ?

Æne. By Priam, and the general state of Troy :
They are at hand, and ready to effect it.

Tro. How my achievements mock me !
I will go meet them : and, my lord Æneas,
We met by chance ; you did not find me here.

Æne. Good, good, my lord ; the secrets of nature
Have not more gift in taciturnity.

[Exeunt TROILUS and ÆNEAS.]

Pan. Is't possible ? no sooner got, but lost ? The
devil take Antenor ! the young prince will go mad.
A plague upon Antenor ! I would, they had broke's
neck !

Enter CRESSIDA.

Cres. How now ? what is the matter ? Who was
here ?

Pan. Ah, ah !

Cres. Why sigh you so profoundly ? where's my
lord gone ?

Tell me, sweet uncle, what's the matter ?

Pan. 'Would I were as deep under the earth as
I am above !

Cres. O the gods !—what's the matter ?

⁺ — matter is so rash :] My business is so *hasty* and so abrupt.

Pan. Pr'ythee, get thee in; 'Would thou had'st ne'er been born! I knew, thou would'st be his death:—O poor gentleman!—A plague upon Antenor!

Cres. Good uncle, I beseech you on my knees, I beseech you, what's the matter?

Pan. Thou must be gone, wench, thou must be gone; thou art changed for Antenor: thou must to thy father, and be gone from Troilus; 'twill be his death; 'twill be his bane; he cannot bear it.

Cres. O you immortal gods!—I will not go.

Pan. Thou must.

Cres. I will not, uncle: I have forgot my father; I know no touch of consanguinity;⁵ No kin, no love, no blood, no soul so near me, As the sweet Troilus.—O you gods divine! Make Cressid's name the very crown of falsehood, If ever she leave Troilus! Time, force, and death, Do to this body what extremes you can; But the strong base and building of my love Is as the very center of the earth, Drawing all things to it.—I'll go in, and weep;—

Pan. Do, do.

Cres. Tear my bright hair, and scratch my praised cheeks; Crack my clear voice with sobs, and break my heart With sounding Troilus. I will not go from Troy.

[*Exeunt.*]

⁵ *I know no touch of consanguinity;*] Touch of consanguinity is sense or feeling of relationship.

SCENE III.

The same. Before Pandarus' House.

*Enter PARIS, TROILUS, ÆNEAS, DEIPHOBUS,
ANTENOR, and DIOMEDES.*

Par. It is great morning;⁶ and the hour prefix'd
Of her delivery to this valiant Greek
Comes fast upon :—Good my brother Troilus,
Tell you the lady what she is to do,
And haste her to the purpose.

Tro. Walk in to her house ;
I'll bring her to the Grecian presently :
And to his hand when I deliver her,
Think it an altar ; and thy brother Troilus
A priest, there offering to it his own heart. [*Exit.*

Par. I know what 'tis to love ;
And 'would, as I shall pity, I could help !—
Please you, walk in, my lords. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.

The same. A Room in Pandarus' House.

Enter PANDARUS and CRESSIDA.

Pan. Be moderate, be moderate.

Cres. Why tell you me of moderation ?
The grief is fine, full, perfect, that I taste,
And violenteth in a sense as strong
As that which causeth it : How can I moderate it ?
If I could temporize with my affection,
Or brew it to a weak and colder palate,

⁶ — great morning ;] *Grand jour* ; a Gallicism.
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The like allayment could I give my grief:
 My love admits no qualifying dross:
 No more my grief, in such a precious loss.

Enter TROILUS.

Pan. Here, here, here he comes.—Ah sweet ducks!

Cres. O Troilus! Troilus! [*Embracing him.*

Pan. What a pair of spectacles is here! Let me embrace too: *O heart*,—as the goodly saying is,——

—— *o heart, o heavy heart,*

Why sigh'st thou without breaking?
 where he answers again,

Because thou canst not ease thy smart,

By friendship, nor by speaking.

There never was a truer rhyme. Let us cast away nothing, for we may live to have need of such a verse; we see it, we see it.—How now, lambs?

Tro. Cressid, I love thee in so strain'd a purity,
 That the blest gods—as angry with my fancy,
 More bright in zeal than the devotion which
 Cold lips blow to their deities,—take thee from me.

Cres. Have the gods envy?

Pan. Ay, ay, ay, ay; 'tis too plain a case.

Cres. And is it true, that I must go from Troy?

Tro. A hateful truth.

Cres. What, and from Troilus too?

Tro. From Troy, and Troilus.

Cres. Is it possible?

Tro. And suddenly; where injury of chance
 Puts back leave-taking, justles roughly by
 All time of pause, rudely beguiles our lips
 Of all rejoindure, forcibly prevents
 Our lock'd embrasures, strangles our dear vows
 Even in the birth of our own labouring breath:
 We two, that with so many thousand sighs

Did buy each other, must poorly sell ourselves
 With the rude brevity and discharge of one.
 Injurious time now, with a robber's haste,
 Crams his rich thievery up, he knows not how :
 As many farewells as he stars in heaven,
 With distinct breath and consign'd kisses⁷ to them,
 He fumbles up into a loose adieu ;
 And scants us with a single famish'd kiss,
 Distasted with the salt of broken tears.⁸

Æne. [*Within.*] My lord ! is the lady ready ?

Tro. Hark ! you are call'd : Some say, the Genius so
 Cries, *Come !* to him that instantly must die.—
 Bid them have patience ; she shall come anon.

Pan. Where are my tears ? rain, to lay this wind,
 or my heart will be blown up by the root ?

[*Exit PANDARUS.*]

Cres. I must then to the Greeks ?

Tro. No remedy.

Cres. A woeful Cressid 'mongst the merry Greeks !
 When shall we see again ?

Tro. Hear me, my love : Be thou but true of
 heart,——

Cres. I true ! how now ? what wicked deem⁹ is
 this ?

Tro. Nay, we must use expostulation kindly,
 For it is parting from us :
 I speak not, *be thou true*, as fearing thee ;
 For I will throw my glove to death¹ himself,

⁷ —— consign'd kisses ——] *Consign'd* means *sealed* ; from *con-*
signo, Lat.

⁸ Distasted with the salt of broken tears.] i. e. of tears to which
 we are not permitted to give full vent, being interrupted and sud-
 denly torn from each other. The poet was probably thinking of
 broken sobs, or broken slumbers.

⁹ —— what wicked deem ——] *Deem* (a word now obsolete)
 signifies, *opinion*, *surmise*.

¹ For I will throw my glove to death ——] That is, I will challenge
 death himself in defence of thy fidelity.

That there's no maculation in thy heart :
 But, *be thou true*, say I, to fashion in
 My sequent protestation ; be thou true,
 And I will see thee.

Cres. O, you shall be expos'd, my lord, to dangers
 As infinite as imminent ? but, I'll be true.

Tro. And I'll grow friend with danger. Wear
 this sleeve.

Cres. And you this glove. When shall I see you ?

Tro. I will corrupt the Grecian sentinels,
 To give thee nightly visitation.
 But yet, be true.

Cres. O heavens !—be true, again ?

Tro. Hear why I speak it, love ;
 The Grecian youths are full of quality ;
 They're loving, well compos'd, with gifts of nature
 flowing,
 And swelling o'er with arts and exercise ;
 How novelty may move, and parts with person,
 Alas, a kind of godly jealousy
 (Which, I beseech you, call a virtuous sin,)
 Makes me afraid.

Cres. O heavens ! you love me not.

Tro. Die I a villain then !

In this I do not call your faith in question,
 So mainly as my merit : I cannot sing,
 Nor heel the high lavolt,² nor sweeten talk,
 Nor play at subtle games ; fair virtues all,
 To which the Grecians are most prompt and pregnant :
 But I can tell, that in each grace of these
 There lurks a still and dumb-discoursive devil,
 That tempts most cunningly : but be not tempted.

Cres. Do you think, I will ?

Tro. No.

But something may be done, that we will not :

² — the high lavolt,] The *lavorla* was a dance.

And sometimes we are devils to ourselves,
When we will tempt the frailty of our powers,
Presuming on their changeful potency.

Æne. [*Within.*] Nay, good my lord,—

Tro. Come, kiss; and let us part.

Par. [*Within.*] Brother Troilus!

Tro. Good brother, come you hither;
And bring Æneas, and the Grecian, with you.

Cres. My lord, will you be true?

Tro. Who I? alas, it is my vice, my fault:
While others fish with craft for great opinion,
I with great truth catch mere simplicity;³
Whilst some with cunning gild their copper crowns,
With truth and plainness I do wear mine bare.
Fear not my truth; the moral of my wit
Is—plain, and true,—there's all the reach of it.

*Enter ÆNEAS, PARIS, ANTENOR, DEIPHOBUS, and
DIOMEDES.*

Welcome, sir Diomed! here is the lady,
Which for Antenor we deliver you:
At the port,⁴ lord, I'll give her to thy hand;
And, by the way, possess thee what she is.⁵
Entreat her fair; and, by my soul, fair Greek,
If e'er thou stand at mercy of my sword,
Name Cressid, and thy life shall be as safe
As Priam is in Ilion.

Dio. Fair lady Cressid,
So please you, save the thanks this prince expects:
The lustre in your eye, heaven in your cheek,
Pleads your fair usage; and to Diomed

³ — *catch mere simplicity;* The meaning, I think, is, *while others, by their art, gain high estimation, I, by honesty, obtain a plain simple approbation.* JOHNSON.

⁴ *At the port,* The *port* is the *gate*.

⁵ — *possess thee what she is.* I will make thee fully understand. This sense of the word *possess* is frequent in our author.

You shall be mistress, and command him wholly.

Tro. Grecian, thou dost not use me courteously,
To shame the zeal of my petition to thee,
In praising her: I tell thee, lord of Greece,
She is as far high-soaring o'er thy praises,
As thou unworthy to be call'd her servant.
I charge thee, use her well, even for my charge;
For, by the dreadful Pluto, if thou dost not,
Though the great bulk Achilles be thy guard,
I'll cut thy throat.

Dio. O, be not mov'd, prince Troilus:
Let me be privileg'd by my place, and message,
To be a speaker free; when I am hence,
I'll answer to my lust:⁶ And know you, lord,
I'll nothing do on charge: To her own worth
She shall be priz'd; but that you say—be't so,
I'll speak it in my spirit and honour,—no.

Tro. Come, to the port.—I'll tell thee, Diomed,
This brave shall oft make thee to hide thy head.—
Lady, give me your hand; and, as we walk,
To our own selves bend we our needful talk.

[*Exeunt* TROILUS, CRESSIDA, and DIOMED.
[*Trumpet heard.*

Par. Hark! Hector's trumpet.

Æne. How have we spent this morning!
The prince must think me tardy and remiss,
That swore to ride before him to the field.

Par. 'Tis Troilus' fault: Come, come, to field
with him.

Dei. Let us make ready straight.

Æne. Yea, with a bridegroom's fresh alacrity,
Let us address to tend on Hector's heels:
The glory of our Troy doth this day lie
On his fair worth, and single chivalry. [*Exeunt,*

⁶ — my lust:] *Lust is inclination, will.*

SCENE V.

The Grecian Camp. Lists set out.

Enter AJAX, armed; AGAMEMNON, ACHILLES, PATROCLUS, MENELAUS, ULYSSES, NESTOR, and Others.

Agam. Here art thou in appointment⁷ fresh and fair,

Anticipating time with starting courage.

Give with thy trumpet a loud note to Troy,

Thou dreadful Ajax; that the appalled air

May pierce the head of the great combatant,

And hale him hither.

Ajar. Thou, trumpet, there's my purse.

Now crack thy lungs, and split thy brazen pipe;

Blow, villain, till thy spher'd bias cheek⁸

Out-swell the colick of puff'd Aquilon:

Come, stretch thy chest, and let thy eyes spout blood;

Thou blow'st for Hector. *[Trumpet sounds.*

Ulyss. No trumpet answers.

Achil. 'Tis but early days.

Agam. Is not yon Diomed with Calchas' daughter?

Ulyss. 'Tis he, I ken the manner of his gait;

He rises on the toe: that spirit of his

In aspiration lifts him from the earth.

Enter DIOMED, with CRESSIDA.

Agam. Is this the lady Cressid?

Dio. Even she.

⁷ — in appointment —] *Appointment* is preparation.

⁸ — bias cheek —] Swelling out like the bias of a bowl. The idea is taken from the puffy cheeks of the winds, as represented in ancient prints, maps, &c.

Agam. Most dearly welcome to the Greeks, sweet lady.

Nest. Our general doth salute you with a kiss.

Ulyss. Yet is the kindness but particular;

'Twere better, she were kiss'd in general.

Nest. And very courtly counsel: I'll begin.—
So much for Nestor.

Achil. I'll take that winter from your lips, fair lady:

Achilles bids you welcome.

Men. I had good argument for kissing once.

Patr. But that's no argument for kissing now:
For thus popp'd Paris in his hardiment;
And parted thus you and your argument.

Ulyss. O deadly gall, and theme of all our scorns!
For which we lose our heads, to gild his horns.

Patr. The first was Menelaus' kiss;—this, mine:
Patroclus kisses you.

Men. O, this is trim!

Patr. Paris, and I, kiss evermore for him.

Men. I'll have my kiss, sir:—Lady, by your leave.

Cres. In kissing, do you render or receive?

Patr. Both take and give.

Cres. I'll make my match to live,⁹
The kiss you take is better than you give;
Therefore no kiss.

Men. I'll give you boot, I'll give you three for one.

Cres. You're an odd man; give even, or give none.

Men. An odd man, lady? every man is odd.

Cres. No, Paris is not; for, you know, 'tis true,
That you are odd, and he is even with you.

Men. You fillip me o'the head.

Cres. No, I'll be sworn.

Ulyss. It were no match, your nail against his
horn.—

⁹ *I'll make my match to live,*] Perhaps this means—I'll lay my
life.

May I, sweet lady, beg a kiss of you?

Cres. You may.

Ulyss. I do desire it.

Cres. Why, beg then.

Ulyss. Why then, for Venus' sake, give me a kiss,
When Helen is a maid again, and his.

Cres. I am your debtor, claim it when 'tis due.

Ulyss. Never's my day, and then a kiss of you.

Dio. Lady, a word;—I'll bring you to your father.
[DIOMED leads out CRESSIDA.]

Nest. A woman of quick sense.

Ulyss. Fye, fye upon her!

There's language in her eye, her cheek, her lip,
Nay, her foot speaks; her wanton spirits look out
At every joint and motive¹ of her body.

O, these encounterers, so glib of tongue,
That give a coasting welcome ere it comes,²
And wide unclasp the tables of their thoughts

To every ticklish reader! set them down
For sluttish spoils of opportunity,³
And daughters of the game. [Trumpet within.]

All. The Trojans' trumpet.

Agam. Yonder comes the troop.

Enter HECTOR, armed; ÆNEAS, TROIUS, and other
Trojans, with Attendants.

Æne. Hail, all the state of Greece! what shall
be done

To him that victory commands? Or do you purpose,
A victor shall be known? will you, the knights
Shall to the edge of all extremity

¹ — motive —] *Motive*, for part that contributes to motion.

² *That give a coasting welcome ere it comes.*] A coasting welcome is a conciliatory welcome; that makes silent advances before the tongue has uttered a word.

³ — sluttish spoils of opportunity,] Corrupt wenches, of whose chastity every opportunity may make a prey. JOHNSON.

Pursue each other ; or shall they be divided
By any voice or order of the field ?
Hector bade ask.

Agam. Which way would Hector have it ?

Æne. He cares not, he'll obey conditions.

Achil. 'Tis done like Hector ; but securely done,
A little proudly, and great deal misprizing
The knight oppos'd.

Æne. If not Achilles, sir,
What is your name ?

Achil. If not Achilles, nothing.

Æne. Therefore Achilles : But, whate'er, know
this ;—

In the extremity of great and little,
Valour and pride excel themselves in Hector ;⁴
The one almost as infinite as all,
The other blank as nothing. Weigh him well,
And that, which looks like pride, is courtesy.
This Ajax is half made of Hector's blood :⁵
In love whereof, half Hector stays at home ;
Half heart, half hand, half Hector comes to seek
This blended knight, half Trojan, and half Greek.
Achil. A maiden battle then ?—O, I perceive you.

Re-enter DIOMED.

Agam. Here is sir Diomed :—Go, gentle knight,
Stand by our Ajax : as you and lord Æneas
Consent upon the order of their fight,

⁴ *Valour and pride excel themselves in Hector ;*] Shakspeare's thought is not exactly deduced. Nicety of expression is not his character. The meaning is plain: " Valour (says Æneas,) is in Hector greater than valour in other men, and pride in Hector is less than pride in other men. So that Hector is distinguished by the excellence of having pride less than other pride, and valour more than other valour." JOHNSON.

⁵ *This Ajax is half made of Hector's blood :*] Ajax and Hector were cousin-germans.

So be it; either to the uttermost,
Or else a breath:⁶ the combatants being kin,
Half stints⁷ their strife before their strokes begin.

[AJAX and HECTOR enter the lists.

Ulyss. They are oppos'd already.

Agam. What Trojan is that same that looks so heavy?

Ulyss. The youngest son of Priam, a true knight;
Not yet mature, yet matchless: firm of word;
Speaking in deeds, and deedless in his tongue;⁸
Not soon provok'd, nor, being provok'd, soon calm'd:
His heart and hand both open, and both free;
For what he has, he gives, what thinks, he shows;
Yet gives he not till judgment guide his bounty,
Nor dignifies an impair thought⁹ with breath:
Manly as Hector, but more dangerous;
For Hector, in his blaze of wrath, subscribes¹
To tender objects; but he, in heat of action,
Is more vindictive than jealous love:
They call him Troilus; and on him erect
A second hope, as fairly built as Hector.
Thus says Æneas; one that knows the youth
Even to his inches, and, with private soul,
Did in great Ilion thus translate him to me.²

[Alarum. HECTOR and AJAX fight.

Agam. They are in action.

Nest. Now, Ajax, hold thine own!

Tro. Hector, thou sleep'st;

Awake thee!

Agam. His blows are well dispos'd:—there, Ajax!

⁶ — a breath:] i. e. a breathing, a slight exercise of arms.

⁷ — stints —] i. e. stops.

⁸ — deedless in his tongue:] i. e. no boaster of his own deeds.

⁹ — an impair thought —] A thought unsuitable to the dignity of his character.

¹ — Hector—subscribes] That is, yields, gives way.

² — thus translate him to me.] Thus explain his character.

Dio. You must no more. [*Trumpets cease.*

Æne. Princes, enough, so please you.

Ajax. I am not warm yet, let us fight again.

Dio. As Hector pleases.

Hect. Why then, will I no more:—

Thou art, great lord, my father's sister's son,
 A cousin-german to great Priam's seed;
 The obligation of our blood forbids
 A gory emulation 'twixt us twain:
 Were thy commixtion Greek and Trojan so,
 That thou could'st say—*This hand is Grecian all,*
And this is Trojan; the sinews of this leg
All Greek, and this all Troy; my mother's blood
Runs on the dexter cheek, and this sinister
Bounds in my father's; by Jove multipotent,
 Thou should'st not bear from me a Greekish member
 Wherein my sword had not impressure made
 Of our rank feud: But the just gods gainsay,
 That any drop thou borrow'st from thy mother,
 My sacred aunt,³ should by my mortal sword
 Be drain'd! Let me embrace thee, Ajax:
 By him that thunders, thou hast lusty arms;
 Hector would have them fall upon him thus:
 Cousin, all honour to thee!

Ajax. I thank thee, Hector:

Thou art too gentle, and too free a man:
 I came to kill thee, cousin, and bear hence
 A great addition⁴ earned in thy death.

Hect. Not Neoptolemus⁵ so mirable

³ *My sacred aunt,*] It is remarkable that the Greeks give to the uncle the title of Sacred, ἅγιος. And this circumstance may tend to establish the opinion, that this play was not the entire composition of Shakspeare, to whom the Grecism before us was probably unknown.

⁴ *A great addition —*] i. e. denomination.

⁵ *Not Neoptolemus —*] My opinion is, that by Neoptolemus the author meant Achilles himself; and remembering that the son

(On whose bright crest Fame with her loud'st O yes
Cries, *This is he,*) could promise to himself
A thought of added honour torn from Hector.

Æne. There is expectance here from both the sides,
What further you will do.

Hect. We'll answer it ;
The issue is embracement :—Ajax, farewell.

Ajax. If I might in entreaties find success,
(As seld' I have the chance,) I would desire
My famous cousin to our Grecian tents.

Dio. 'Tis Agamemnon's wish, and great Achilles
Doth long to see unarm'd the valiant Hector.

Hect. *Æneas*, call my brother Troilus to me :
And signify this loving interview
To the expecters of our Trojan part ;
Desire them home.—Give me thy hand, my cousin ;
I will go eat with thee, and see your knights.

Ajax. Great Agamemnon comes to meet us here.

Hect. The worthiest of them tell me name by
name ;

But for Achilles, my own searching eyes
Shall find him by his large and portly size.

Agam. Worthy of arms ! as welcome as to one
That would be rid of such an enemy ;
But that's no welcome : Understand more clear,
What's past, and what's to come, is strew'd with husks
And formless ruin of oblivion ;
But in this extant moment, faith and troth,
Strain'd purely from all hollow bias-drawing,
Bids thee, with most divine integrity,
From heart of very heart, great Hector, welcome.

Hect. I thank thee, most imperious⁶ Agamemnon.

was Pyrrhus Neoptolemus, considered Neoptolemus as the *nomen gentilitium*, and thought the father was likewise Achilles Neoptolemus. JOHNSON.

⁶ — most imperious—] *Imperious* and *imperial* had formerly the same signification.

Agam. My well-fam'd lord of Troy, no less to you;

[*To TROILUS.*]

Men. Let me confirm my princely brother's
greeting;—

You brace of warlike brothers, welcome hither.

Hect. Whom must we answer?

Men. The noble Menelaus.

Hect. O you, my lord? by Mars his gauntlet,
thanks!

Mock not, that I affect the untraded⁷ oath;

Your *quondam* wife swears still by Venus' glove:

She's well, but bade me not commend her to you.

Men. Name her not now, sir; she's a deadly
theme.

Hect. O, pardon; I offend.

Nest. I have, thou gallant Trojan, seen thee oft,
Labouring for destiny, make cruel way
Through ranks of Greekish youth: and I have seen
thee,

As hot as Perseus, spur thy Phrygian steed,

Despoiling many forfeits and subduements,

When thou hast hung thy advanced sword i'the air,

Not letting it decline on the declin'd;⁸

That I have said to some my standers-by,

Lo, Jupiter is yonder, dealing life!

And I have seen thee pause, and take thy breath,

When that a ring of Greeks have hemm'd thee in,

Like an Olympian wrestling: This have I seen;

But this thy countenance, still lock'd in steel,

I never saw till now. I knew thy grandsire,⁹

And once fought with him: he was a soldier good;

But, by great Mars, the captain of us all,

Never like thee: Let an old man embrace thee;

And, worthy warrior, welcome to our tents.

⁷ — the untraded oath;] A singular oath, not in common use.

⁸ — the declin'd;] The declin'd is the *fallen*.

⁹ — thy grandsire,] Laomedon.

Æne. 'Tis the old Nestor.

Hect. Let me embrace thee, good old chronicle,
That hast so long walk'd hand in hand with time :—
Most reverend Nestor, I am glad to clasp thee.

Nest. I would, my arms could match thee in contention,

As they contend with thee in courtesy.

Hect. I would they could.

Nest. Ha!

By this white beard I'd fight with thee to-morrow.
Well, welcome, welcome! I have seen the time—

Ulyss. I wonder now how yonder city stands,
When we have here her base and pillar by us.

Hect. I know your favour, lord Ulysses, well.
Ah, sir, there's many a Greek and Trojan dead,
Since first I saw yourself and Diomed
In Ilion, on your Greekish embassy.

Ulyss. Sir, I foretold you then what would ensue :
My prophecy is but half his journey yet ;
For yonder walls, that pertly front your town,
Yon towers, whose wanton tops do buss the clouds,
Must kiss their own feet.

Hect. I must not believe you :
There they stand yet ; and modestly I think,
The fall of every Phrygian stone will cost
A drop of Grecian blood : The end crowns all ;
And that old common arbitrator, time,
Will one day end it.

Ulyss. So to him we leave it.
Most gentle, and most valiant Hector, welcome :
After the general, I beseech you next
To feast with me, and see me at my tent.

Achil. I shall forestall thee, lord Ulysses, thou !—
Now, Hector, I have fed mine eyes on thee ;
I have with exact view perus'd thee, Hector,
And quoted joint by joint.¹

¹ And quoted joint by joint.] To quote is to observe.

Hect. Is this Achilles?

Achil. I am Achilles.

Hect. Stand fair, I pray thee : let me look on thee.

Achil. Behold thy fill.

Hect. Nay, I have done already.

Achil. Thou art too brief ; I will the second time,
As I would buy thee, view thee limb by limb.

Hect. O, like a book of sport thou'lt read me o'er ;
But there's more in me than thou understand'st.
Why dost thou so oppress me with thine eye ?

Achil. Tell me, you heavens, in which part of
his body

Shall I destroy him ? whether there, there, or there ?
That I may give the local wound a name ;
And make distinct the very breach, whereout
Hector's great spirit flew : Answer me, heavens !

Hect. It would discredit the bless'd gods, proud
man,
To answer such a question : Stand again :
Think'st thou to catch my life so pleasantly,
As to prenominate in nice conjecture,
Where thou wilt hit me dead ?

Achil. I tell thee, yea.

Hect. Wert thou an oracle to tell me so,
I'd not believe thee. Henceforth guard thee well ;
For I'll not kill thee there, nor there, nor there ;
But, by the forge that stithied Mars his helm,²
I'll kill thee every where, yea, o'er and o'er.—
You wisest Grecians, pardon me this brag,
His insolence draws folly from my lips ;
But I'll endeavour deeds to match these words,
Or may I never——

Ajax. Do not chafe thee, cousin ;—
And you Achilles, let these threats alone,

² — that stithied Mars his helm,] A stith is an anvil, and
from hence the verb stithied is formed.

Till accident, or purpose, bring you to't :
You may have every day enough of Hector,
If you have stomach ; the general state, I fear,
Can scarce entreat you to be odd with him.³

Hect. I pray you, let us see you in the field ;
We have had pelting wars,⁴ since you refus'd
The Grecians' cause.

Achil. Dost thou entreat me, Hector ?
To-morrow, do I meet thee, fell as death ;
To-night, all friends.

Hect. Thy hand upon that match.

Agam. First, all you peers of Greece, go to my
tent ;

There in the full convive⁵ we : afterwards,
As Hector's leisure and your bounties shall
Concur together, severally entreat him.—
Beat loud the taborines,⁶ let the trumpets blow,
That this great soldier may his welcome know.

[*Exeunt all but TROILUS and ULYSSES.*]

Tro. My lord Ulysses, tell me, I beseech you,
In what place of the field doth Calchas keep ?

Ulyss. At Menelaus' tent, most princely Troilus :
There Diomed doth feast with him to-night ;
Who neither looks upon the heaven, nor earth,
But gives all gaze and bent of amorous view
On the fair Cressid.

Tro. Shall I, sweet lord, be bound to you so much,
After we part from Agamemnon's tent,
To bring me thither ?

³ — the general state, I fear,

Can scarce entreat you to be odd with him.] Ajax treats Achilles with contempt, and means to insinuate that he was afraid of fighting with Hector. You may every day (says he) have enough of Hector, if you choose it ; but I believe the whole state of Greece will scarcely prevail on you to engage with him."

⁴ — pelting wars,] i. e. petty, inconsiderable ones.

⁵ — convive —] To convive is to feast.

⁶ Beat loud the tabourines,] Tabourines are small drums.

Ulyss. You shall command me, sir.
As gentle tell me, of what honour was
This Cressida in Troy? Had she no lover there
That waits her absence?

Tro. O, sir, to such as boasting show their scars,
A mock is due. Will you walk on, my lord?
She was belov'd, she lov'd; she is, and doth:
But, still, sweet love, is food for fortune's tooth.

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT V.

SCENE, I. The Grecian Camp. Before Achilles' Tent.

Enter **ACHILLES** *and* **PATROCLUS.**

Achil. I'll heat his blood with Greekish wine to-night;

Which with my scimitar I'll cool to-morrow.—

Patroclus, let us feast him to the height.

Patr. Here comes Thersites.

Enter **THERSITES.**

Achil. How now, thou core of envy;
Thou crusty batch of nature, what's the news?

Ther. Why, thou picture of what thou seemest,
and idol of idiot worshippers, here's a letter for thee.

Achil. From whence, fragment?

Ther. Why, thou full dish of fool, from Troy.

Patr. Who keeps the tent now?

Ther. The surgeon's box,⁷ or the patient's wound.

⁷ *The surgeon's box,*] In this answer Thersites quibbles upon the word *tent*.

Patr. Well said, Adversity!⁸ and what need these tricks?

Ther. Pr'ythee be silent, boy; I profit not by thy talk: thou art thought to be Achilles' male varlet.

Patr. Male varlet, you rogue! what's that?

Ther. Why, his masculine whore. Now the rotten diseases of the south, the guts-griping, ruptures, catarrhs, loads o'gravel i'the back, lethargies, cold palsies, raw eyes, dirt-rotten livers, wheezing lungs, bladders full of imposthume, sciaticas, limekilns i'the palm, incurable bone-ach, and the rivelled fee-simple of the tetter, take and take again such preposterous discoveries!

Patr. Why thou damnable box of envy, thou, what meanest thou to curse thus?

Ther. Do I curse thee?

Patr. Why, no, you ruinous butt; you whoreson indistinguishable cur, no.

Ther. No? why art thou then exasperate, thou idle immaterial skein of sleive silk,⁹ thou green scarenet flap for a sore eye, thou tassel of a prodigal's purse, thou? Ah, how the poor world is pestered with such water-flies; diminutives of nature!

Patr. Out, gall!

Ther. Finch egg!¹

Achil. My sweet Patroclus, I am thwarted quite From my great purpose in to-morrow's battle. Here is a letter from queen Hecuba; A token from her daughter, my fair love;

⁸ *Well said, Adversity!* *Adversity*, in this instance, signifies *contrariety*. The reply of Thersites has been studiously *adverse* to the drift of the question urged by Patroclus.

⁹ — *thou idle immaterial skein of sleive silk,* All the terms used by Thersites of Patroclus, are emblematically expressive of flexibility, compliance, and mean officiousness.

¹ *Finch egg!* A finch's egg is remarkably gaudy; but of such terms of reproach it is difficult to pronounce the true signification.

Both taxing me, and gaging me to keep
 An oath that I have sworn. I will not break it:
 Fall, Greeks: fail, fame; honour, or go, or stay;
 My major vow lies here, this I'll obey.—
 Come, come, Thersites, help to trim my tent;
 This night in banqueting must all be spent.—
 Away, Patroclus.

[*Exeunt* ACHILLES and PATROCLUS.

Ther. With too much blood, and too little brain, these two may run mad; but if with too much brain, and too little blood, they do, I'll be a curer of madmen. Here's Agamemnon,—an honest fellow enough, and one that loves quails; but he has not so much brain as ear-wax: And the goodly transformation of Jupiter there, his brother, the bull,—the primitive statue, and oblique memorial of cuckolds; a thrifty shoeing-horn in a chain, hanging at his brother's leg,—to what form, but that he is, should wit larded with malice, and malice forced with wit, turn him to? To an ass, were nothing: he is both ass and ox: to an ox were nothing; he is both ox and ass. To be a dog, a mule, a cat, a fitchew,² a toad, a lizard, an owl, a puttock, or a herring without a roe, I would not care: but to be Menelaus,—I would conspire against destiny. Ask me not what I would be, if I were not Thersites; for I care not to be the louse of a lazar, so I were not Menelaus.—Hey-day! spirits and fires!³

Enter HECTOR, TROILUS, AJAX, AGAMEMNON, ULYSSES, NESTOR, MENELAUS, and DIOMED, *with lights.*

Agam. We go wrong, we go wrong.

² — a fitchew,] i. e. a *polecat*.

³ — *spirits and fires!*] This Thersites speaks upon the first sight of the distant lights.

Ajax. No, yonder 'tis;
 There, where we see the lights.
Hect. I trouble you.
Ajax. No, not a whit.
Ulyss. Here comes himself to guide you.

Enter ACHILLES.

Achil. Welcome, brave Hector; welcome, princes
 all.
Agam. So now, fair prince of Troy, I bid good
 night.
Ajax commands the guard to tend on you.
Hect. Thanks, and good night, to the Greeks'
 general.
Men. Good night, my lord.
Hect. Good night, sweet Menelaus.
Ther. Sweet draught: Sweet, quoth 'a! sweet
 sink, sweet sewer.
Achil. Good night,
 And welcome, both to those that go, or tarry.
Agam. Good night.

[*Exeunt AGAMEMNON and MENELAUS.*]

Achil. Old Nester tarries; and you too, Diomed,
 Keep Hector company an hour or two.
Dio. I cannot, lord; I have important business,
 The tide whereof is now.—Good night, great Hector.
Hect. Give me your hand.
Ulyss. Follow his torch, he goes
 To Calchas' tent; I'll keep you company.

[*Aside to TROILUS.*]

Tro. Sweet sir, you honour me.
Hect. And so good night.

[*Exit DIOMED; ULYSS. and TRO. following.*]

Achil. Come, come, enter my tent.

[*Exeunt ACHIL. HECTOR, AJAX, and NEST.*]

Ther. That same Diomed's a false-hearted rogue,
 a most unjust knave; I will no more trust him when

he leers, than I will a serpent when he hisses: he will spend his mouth; and promise, like Brabler the hound;⁴ but when he performs, astronomers foretell it; it is prodigious,⁵ there will come some change; the sun borrows of the moon, when Diomed keeps his word. I will rather leave to see Hector, than not to dog him: they say, he keeps a Trojan drab, and uses the traitor Calchas' tent: I'll after. —Nothing but lechery! all incontinent varlets!

[*Exit.*]

SCENE II.

The same. Before Calchas' Tent.

Enter DIOMEDES.

Dio. What are you up here, ho? speak.

Cal. [*Within.*] Who calls?

Dio. Diomed.—Calchas, I think.—Where's your daughter?

Cal. [*Within.*] She comes to you.

Enter TROILUS and ULYSSES, at a distance; after them THERSITES.

Ulyss. Stand where the torch may not discover us,

Enter CRESSIDA.

Tro. Cressid come forth to him!

Dio. How now, my charge?

Cres. Now, my sweet guardian!—Hark! a word with you. [*Whispers.*]

⁴ — he will spend his mouth, and promise, like Brabler the hound;] If a hound gives his mouth, and is not upon the scent of the game, he is by sportsmen called a babler or brabler.

⁵ — prodigious,] i. e. portentous, ominous.

Tro. Yea, so familiar!

Ulyss. She will sing any man at first sight.

Ther. And any man may sing her, if he can take her cliff;⁶ she's noted.

Dio. Will you remember?

Cres. Remember? yes.

Dio. Nay, but do then;
And let your mind be coupled with your words.

Tro. What should she remember?

Ulyss. List!

Cres. Sweet honey Greek, tempt me no more to folly.

Ther. Roguery!

Dio. Nay, then,—

Cres. I'll tell you what:

Dio. Pho! pho! come, tell a pin: You are forsworn.—

Cres. In faith, I cannot: What would you have me do?

Ther. A juggling trick, to be—secretly open.

Dio. What did you swear you would bestow on me?

Cres. I pr'ythee, do not hold me to mine oath;
Bid me do any thing but that, sweet Greek.

Dio. Good night.

Tro. Hold, patience!

Ulyss. How now, Trojan?

Cres. Diomed,—

Dio. No, no, good night: I'll be your fool no more.

Tro. Thy better must.

Cres. Hark! one word in your ear.

Tro. O plague and madness!

Ulyss. You are mov'd, prince; let us depart, I pray you,

⁶ — her cliff,] That is, her key. *Clef*, French.

Lest your displeasure should enlarge itself
 To wrathful terms ; this place is dangerous ;
 The time right deadly ; I beseech you, go.

Tro. Behold, I pray you !

Ulyss. Now, good my lord, go off :
 You flow to great destruction ; come, my lord.

Tro. I prythee, stay.

Ulyss. You have not patience ; come.

Tro. I pray you, stay ; by hell, and all hell's
 torments,

I will not speak a word.

Dio. And so, good night.

Cres. Nay, but you part in anger.

Tro. Doth that grieve thee ?

O wither'd truth !

Ulyss. Why, how now, lord ?

Tro. By Jove,

I will be patient.

Cres. Guardian !—why, Greek !

Dio. Pho, pho ! adieu ; you palter.⁷

Cres. In faith, I do not ; come hither once again.

Ulyss. You shake, my lord, at something ; will
 you go ?

You will break out.

Tro. She strokes his cheek !

Ulyss. Come, come.

Tro. Nay, stay ; by Jove, I will not speak a word :

There is between my will and all offences

A guard of patience :—stay a little while.

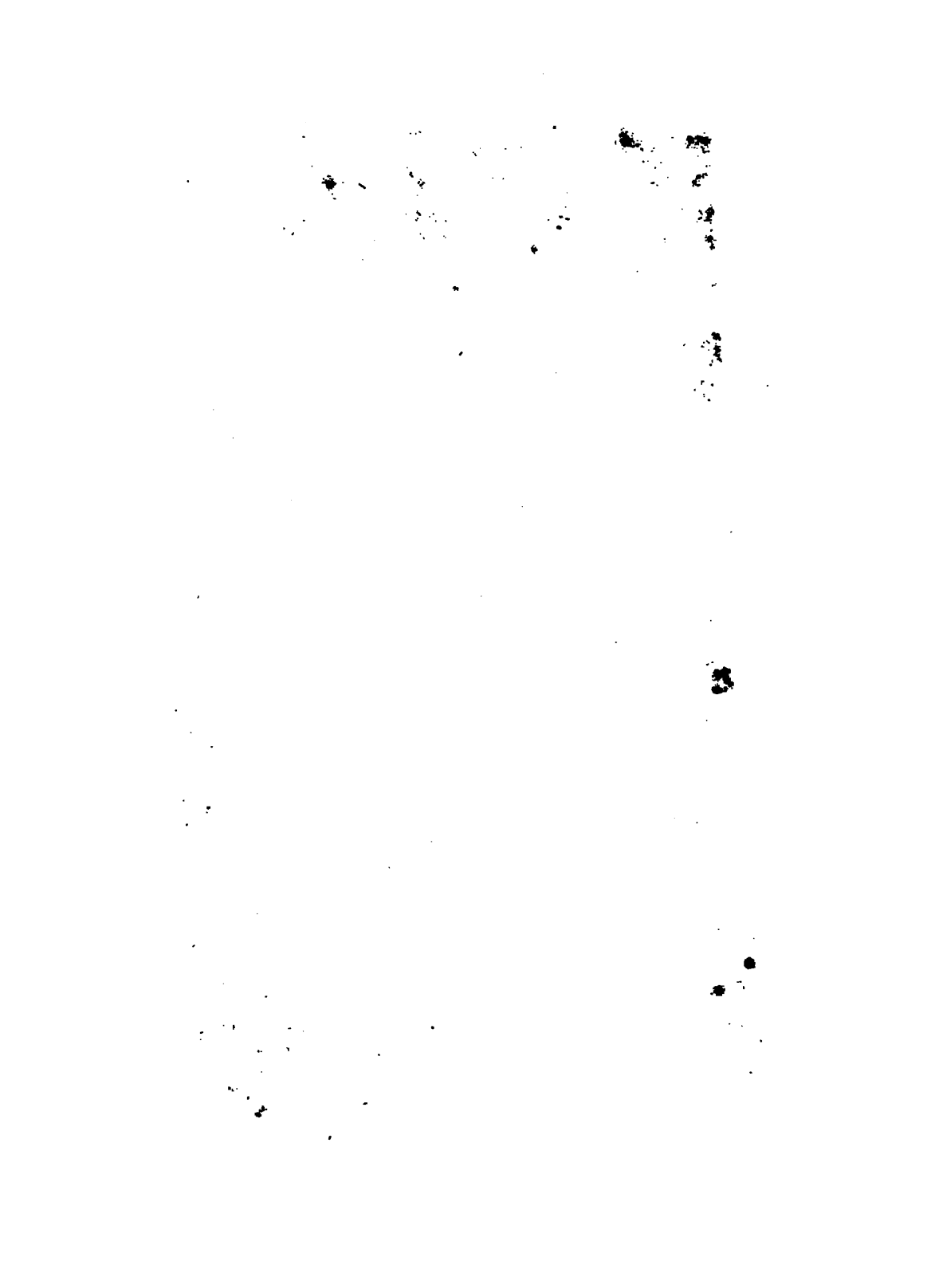
Ther. How the devil luxury, with his fat rump,
 and potatoe finger, tickles these together ! Fry,
 lechery, fry !

Dio. But will you then ?

Cres. In faith, I will, la ; never trust me else.

Dio. Give me some token for the surety of it.

⁷ — *palter.*] i. e. shuffle, behave with duplicity.





Cres. I'll fetch you one. [*Exit.*

Ulyss. You have sworn patience.

Tro. Fear me not, my lord;
I will not be myself, nor have cognition
Of what I feel; I am all patience.

Re-enter CRESSIDA.

Ther. Now the pledge; now, now, now!

Cres. Here, Diomed, keep this sleeve.*

Tro. O beauty! where's thy faith?

Ulyss. My lord,——

Tro. I will be patient; outwardly I will.

Cres. You look upon that sleeve; Behold it well.—
He loved me—O false wench!—Give't me again.

Dio. Who was't?

Cres. No matter, now I have't again.
I will not meet with you to-morrow night:
I prythee, Diomed, visit me no more.

Ther. Now she sharpens;—Well said, whetstone.

Dio. I shall have it.

Cres. What, this?

Dio. Ay, that.

Cres. O, all you gods!—O pretty pretty pledge!
Thy master now lies thinking in his bed
Of thee, and me; and sighs, and takes my glove,
And gives memorial dainty kisses to it,
As I kiss thee.—Nay, do not snatch it from me;
He, that takes that, must take my heart withal.

Dio. I had your heart before, this follows it.

Tro. I did swear patience.

Cres. You shall not have it, Diomed; 'faith you
shall not;

* — keep this sleeve.] The custom of wearing a lady's sleeve for a favour, is of ancient date, but the sleeve given in the present instance was the sleeve of *Troilus*. It may be supposed to be an ornamented cuff, such, perhaps, as was worn by some of our young nobility at a tilt, in Shakspeare's age.

I'll give you something else.

Dio. I will have this; Whose was it?

Cres. 'Tis no matter.

Dio. Come, tell me whose it was.

Cres. 'Twas one's that loved me better than you will.

But, now you have it, take it.

Dio. Whose was it?

Cres. By all Diana's waiting-women yonder,*
And by herself, I will not tell you whose.

Dio. To-morrow will I wear it on my helm;
And grieve his spirit, that dares not challenge it.

Tro. Wert thou the devil, and wor'st it on thy
horn,

It should be challeng'd.

Cres. Well, well, 'tis done, 'tis past;—And yet
it is not;

I will not keep my word.

Dio. Why then, farewell;

Thou never shalt mock Diomed again.

Cres. You shall not go:—One cannot speak a
word,

But it straight starts you.

Dio. I do not like this fooling.

Ther. Nor I, by Pluto: but that that likes not
you, pleases me best.

Dio. What, shall I come? the hour?

Cres. Ay, come:—O Jove!

Do come:—I shall be plagu'd.

Dio. Farewell till then.

Cres. Good night. I pr'ythee, come.—

[*Exit DIOMEDES.*]

Troilus, farewell! one eye yet looks on thee;
But with my heart the other eye doth see.

* *By all Diana's waiting-women yonder,*] i. e. the stars which
she points to.

Ah! poor our sex! this fault in us I find,
The error of our eye directs our mind:
What error leads, must err; O then conclude,
Minds, sway'd by eyes, are full of turpitude.

[*Exit CRESSIDA.*]

Ther. A proof of strength she could not publish
more,

Unless she said, My mind is now turn'd whore.

Ulyss. All's done, my lord.

Tro. It is.

Ulyss. Why stay we then?

Tro. To make a recordination to my soul
Of every syllable that here was spoke.
But, if I tell how these two did co-act,
Shall I not lie in publishing a truth?
Sith yet there is a credence in my heart,
An esperance so obstinately strong,
That doth invert the attest of eyes and ears;
As if those organs had deceptious functions,
Created only to calumniate.

Was Cressid here?

Ulyss. I cannot conjure, Trojan.¹

Tro. She was not sure.

Ulyss. Most sure she was.

Tro. Why, my negation hath no taste of madness.

Ulyss. Nor mine, my lord: Cressid was here but
now.

Tro. Let it not be believ'd for womanhood!²
Think, we had mothers; do not give advantage
To stubborn criticks³—apt, without a theme,
For depravation,—to square the general sex
By Cressid's rule: rather think this not Cressid.

¹ *I cannot conjure, Trojan.*] That is, I cannot raise spirits in the form of Cressida.

² — for womanhood!] i. e. for the sake of womanhood.

³ *To stubborn criticks* —] Critick has here, probably, the signification of Cynick.

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Ulyss. What hath she done, prince, that can
soil our mothers?

Tro. Nothing at all, unless that this were she.

Ther. Will he swagger himself out on's own eyes?

Tro. This she? no, this is Diomed's Cressida:

If beauty have a soul, this is not she;

If souls guide vows, if vows be sanctimony,

If sanctimony be the gods' delight,

If there be rule in unity itself,⁴

This was not she. O madness of discourse,

That cause sets up with and against itself!

Bi-fold authority! where reason can revolt

Without perdition, and loss assume all reason

Without revolt;⁵ this is, and is not, Cressid!

Within my soul there doth commence a fight

Of this strange nature, that a thing inseparate⁶

Divides more wider than the sky and earth;

And yet the spacious breadth of this division

Admits no orifice for a point, as subtle

As is Arachne's broken woof, to enter.

Instance, O instance! strong as Pluto's gates;

Cressid is mine, tied with the bonds of heaven:

Instance, O instance! strong as heaven itself;

The bonds of heaven are slipp'd, dissolv'd, and
loos'd;

And with another knot, five-finger-tied,⁷

The fractions of her faith, orts of her love,

⁴ *If there be rule in unity itself,*] If it be true that one individual cannot be two distinct persons.

⁵ — *where reason can revolt*

Without perdition, and loss assume all reason

Without revolt;] The words *loss* and *perdition* are used in their common sense, but they mean the *loss* or *perdition* of *reason*.

⁶ — *a thing inseparate*—] i. e. the plighted troth of lovers. Troilus considers it *inseparable*, or at least that it ought never to be broken.

⁷ — *knot, five-finger-tied,*] A knot tied by giving her hand to Diomed.

The fragments, scraps, the bits, and greasy reliques
Of her o'er-eaten faith, are bound to Diomed.

Ulyss. May worthy Troilus⁸ be half attach'd
With that which here his passion doth express?

Tro. Ay, Greek; and that shall be divulged well
In characters as red as Mars his heart
Inflam'd with Venus: never did young man fancy
With so eternal and so fix'd a soul.

Hark, Greek; As much as I do Cressid love,
So much by weight hate I her Diomed:
That sleeve is mine, that he'll bear on his helm;
Were it a casque compos'd by Vulcan's skill,
My sword should bite it: not the dreadful spout,
Which shipmen do the hurricano call
Constring'd in mass by the almighty sun,
Shall dizzy with more clamour Neptune's ear
In his descent, than shall my prompted sword
Falling on Diomed.

Ther. He'll tickle it for his concupy.⁹

Tro. O Cressid! O false Cressid! false, false, false,
Let all untruths stand by thy stained name,
And they'll seem glorious.

Ulyss. O, contain yourself;
Your passion draws ears hither.

Enter ÆNEAS.

Æne. I have been seeking you this hour, my lord:
Hector, by this, is arming him in Troy;
Ajax, your guard, stays to conduct you home.

Tro. Have with you, prince:—My courteous
lord, adieu:—

⁸ *May worthy Troilus—*] Can Troilus really feel, on this occasion, half of what he utters? A question suitable to the calm Ulysses. JOHNSON.

⁹ — *concupy.*] A cant word, formed by our author from *concupiscence*.

Farewell, revolted fair!—and, Diomed,
Stand fast, and wear a castle on thy head!¹

Ulyss. I'll bring you to the gates.

Tro. Accept distracted thanks.

[*Exeunt* TROILUS, ÆNEAS, and ULYSSES.

Ther. 'Would, I could meet that rogue Diomed!
I would croak like a raven; I would bode, I would
bode. Patroclus will give me any thing for the in-
telligence of this whore: the parrot will not do
more for an almond, than he for a commodious
drab. Lechery, lechery; still, wars and lechery;
nothing else holds fashion: A burning devil take
them. [*Exit.*

SCENE III.

Troy. Before Priam's Palace..

Enter HECTOR and ANDROMACHE.

And. When was my lord so much ungently tem-
per'd,

To stop his ears against admonishment?

Unarm, unarm, and do not fight to-day.

Hect. You train me to offend you; get you in:
By all the everlasting gods, I'll go.

And. My dreams will, sure, prove ominous to the
day.

Hect. No more, I say.

Enter CASSANDRA.

Cas. Where is my brother Hector?

And. Here, sister; arm'd, and bloody in intent:
Consort with me in loud and dear petition,²

¹ — and wear a castle on thy head!] i. e. defend thy head
with armour of more than common security.

² — dear petition,] Dear, on this occasion, seems to mean
important, consequential.

Pursue we him on knees; for I have dream'd
Of bloody turbulence, and this whole night
Hath nothing been but shapes and forms of slaughter.

Cas. O, it is true.

Hect. Ho! bid my trumpet sound!

Cas. No notes of sally, for the heavens, sweet
brother.

Hect. Begone, I say: the gods have heard me
swear.

Cas. The gods are deaf to hot and peevish³ vows;
They are polluted offerings, more abhorr'd
Than spotted livers in the sacrifice.

And. O! be persuaded: Do not count it holy
To hurt by being just: it is as lawful,
For we would give much, to use violent thefts,
And rob in the behalf of charity.

Cas. It is the purpose,⁴ that makes strong the vow:
But vows, to every purpose, must not hold:
Unarm, sweet Hector.

Hect. Hold you still, I say;
Mine honour keeps the weather of my fate:
Life every man holds dear; but the dear man⁵
Holds honour far more precious-dear than life.—

Enter TROILUS.

How now, young man? mean'st thou to fight to-day?

And. Cassandra, call my father to persuade.

[*Exit CASSANDRA.*]

Hect. No, 'faith, young Troilus; doff thy harness,
youth,
I am to-day i'the vein of chivalry:

³ — peevish —] i. e. foolish.

⁴ *It is the purpose,*] The mad prophetess speaks here with all the coolness and judgment of a skilful casuist. "The essence of a lawful vow, is a lawful purpose, and the vow of which the end is wrong, must not be regarded as cogent." JOHNSON.

⁵ — dear man —] *Valuable* man.

Let grow thy sinews till their knots be strong,
 And tempt not yet the brushes of the war.
 Unarm thee, go; and doubt thou not, brave boy,
 I'll stand, to-day, for thee, and me, and Troy.

Tro. Brother, you have a vice of mercy in you,
 Which better fits a lion,⁶ than a man.

Hect. What vice is that, good Troilus? chide me
 for it.

Tro. When many times the captive Grecians fall,
 Even in the fan and wind of your fair sword,
 You bid them rise, and live.⁷

Hect. O, 'tis fair play.

Tro. Fool's play, by heaven, Hector.

Hect. How now? how now?

Tro. For the love of all the gods,
 Let's leave the hermit pity with our mother;
 And when we have our armours buckled on,
 The venom'd vengeance ride upon our swords;
 Spur them to ruthless work, rein them from ruth.

Hect. Fye, savage, fye!

Tro. Hector, then 'tis wars.

Hect. Troilus, I would not have you fight to-day.

Tro. Who should withhold me?

Not fate, obedience, nor the hand of Mars
 Beckoning with fiery truncheon⁸ my retire;
 Not Priamus and Hecuba on knees,
 Their eyes o'ergalled with recourse of tears;

⁶ *Which better fits a lion,*] The traditions and stories of the darker ages abounded with examples of the lion's generosity. Upon the supposition that these acts of clemency were true, Troilus reasons not improperly, that to spare against reason, by mere instinct of pity, became rather a generous beast than a wise man.

⁷ *You bid them rise, and live.*] Shakspeare seems not to have studied the Homeric character of Hector, whose disposition was by no means inclined to clemency.

⁸ — *with fiery truncheon* —] We have here but a modern Mars. Antiquity acknowledges no such ensign of command as a truncheon. The spirit of the passage, however, is such as might atone for a greater impropriety.

Nor you, my brother, with your true sword drawn,
Oppos'd to hinder me, should stop my way,
But by my ruin.

Re-enter CASSANDRA, with PRIAM.

Cas. Lay hold upon him, Priam, hold him fast :
He is thy crutch ; now if thou lose thy stay,
Thou on him leaning, and all Troy on thee,
Fall all together.

Pri. Come, Hector, come, go back :
Thy wife hath dream'd ; thy mother hath had visions ;
Cassandra doth foresee ; and I myself
Am like a prophet suddenly enrapt,
To tell thee—that this day is ominous :
Therefore, come back.

Hect. Æneas is a-field ;
And I do stand engag'd to many Greeks,
Even in the faith of valour, to appear
This morning to them.

Pri. But thou shalt not go.

Hect. I must not break my faith.
You know me dutiful ; therefore, dear sir,
Let me not shame respect ;⁹ but give me leave
To take that course by your consent and voice,
Which you do here forbid me, royal Priam.

Cas. O Priam, yield not to him.

And. Do not, dear father.

Hect. Andromache, I am offended with you :
Upon the love you bear me, get you in.

[*Exit ANDROMACHE.*

Tro. This foolish, dreaming, superstitious girl
Makes all these bodements.

Cas. O farewell, dear Hector.
Look, how thou diest ! look, how thy eye turns pale !

⁹ — *shame respect ;*] i. e. disgrace the respect I owe you, by acting in opposition to your commands.

Look, how thy wounds do bleed at many vents !
 Hark, how Troy roars ! how Hecuba cries out !
 How poor Andromache shrills her dolours forth !
 Behold, destruction, frenzy, and amazement,
 Like witless anticks, one another meet,
 And all cry—Hector ! Hector's dead ! O Hector !

Tro. Away !—Away !—

Cas. Farewell.—Yet, soft :—Hector, I take my
 leave :

Thou dost thyself and all our Troy deceive. [*Exit.*

Hect. You are amaz'd, my liege, at her exclaim :
 Go in, and cheer the town : we'll forth, and fight ;
 Do deeds worth praise, and tell you them at night.

Pri. Farewell : the gods with safety stand about
 thee !

[*Exeunt severally* PRIAM and HECTOR.
Alarums.

Tro. They are at it ; hark ! Proud Diomed, believe,
 I come to lose my arm, or win my sleeve.

As TROIUS is going out, enter, from the other side,
 PANDARUS.

Pan. Do you hear, my lord ? do you hear ?

Tro. What now ?

Pan. Here's a letter from yon' poor girl.

Tro. Let me read.

Pan. A whoreson ptisick, a whoreson rascally
 ptisick so troubles me, and the foolish fortune of
 this girl ; and what one thing, what another, that I
 shall leave you one o'these days : And I have a rheum
 in mine eyes too ; and such an ache in my bones,
 that, unless a man were cursed,¹ I cannot tell what
 to think on't.—What says she there ?

¹ — *cursed*,] i. e. under the influence of a malediction, such
 as mischievous beings have been supposed to pronounce upon
 those who had offended them. STEEVENS.

Tro. Words, words, mere words, no matter from
the heart ; *[Tearing the letter.*
The effect doth operate another way.—
Go, wind, to wind, there turn and change together.—
My love with words and errors still she feeds ;
But edifies another with her deeds.
[Exeunt severally.

SCENE IV.

Between Troy and the Grecian Camp.

Alarums : Excursions. Enter THERSITES.

Ther. Now they are clapper-clawing one another ;
I'll go look on. That dissembling abominable var-
let, Diomed, has got that same scurvy doting foolish
young knave's sleeve of Troy there in his helm : I
would fain see them meet ; that that same young
Trojan ass, that loves the whore there, might send
that Greekish whoremasterly villain, with the sleeve,
back to the dissembling luxurious drab, on a sleeve-
less errand. O' the other side, The policy of those
crafty swearing rascals,—that stale old mouse-eaten
dry cheese, Nestor ; and that same dog-fox, Ulysses,
—is not proved worth a blackberry :—They set me
up, in policy, that mongrel cur, Ajax, against that
dog of as bad a kind, Achilles : and now is the cur
Ajax prouder than the cur Achilles, and will not arm
to-day ; whereupon the Grecians begin to proclaim
barbarism,² and policy grows into an ill opinion.
Soft ! here come sleeve, and t'other.

² ——— *to proclaim barbarism,*] To set up the authority of igno-
rance, to declare that they will be governed by policy no longer.

Enter DIOMEDES, TROILUS following.

Tro. Fly not; for, shouldst thou take the river
Styx,

I would swim after.

Dio. Thou dost miscall retire:

I do not fly; but advantageous care
Withdrew me from the odds of multitude:

Have at thee!

Ther. Hold thy whore, Grecian!—now for thy
whore, Trojan!—now the sleeve, now the sleeve!

[*Exeunt TROILUS and DIOMEDES, fighting.*]

Enter HECTOR.

Hect. What art thou, Greek, art thou for Hector's match?

Art thou of blood, and honour?

Ther. No, no:—I am a rascal; a scurvy railing
knave; a very filthy rogue.

Hect. I do believe thee;—live. [*Erit.*]

Ther. God-a-mercy, that thou wilt believe me;
But a plague break thy neck, for frightening me!
What's become of the wenching rogues? I think,
they have swallowed one another: I would laugh at
that miracle. Yet, in a sort, lechery eats itself.
I'll seek them. [*Erit.*]

SCENE V.

The same.

Enter DIOMEDES and a Servant.

Dio. Go, go, my servant, take thou Troilus' horse;
Present the fair steed to my lady Cressid:
Fellow, commend my service to her beauty;

Tell her, I have chastis'd the amorous Trojan,
And am her knight by proof.

Serv.

I go, my lord.

[*Exit* Servant.]

Enter AGAMEMNON.

Agam. Renew, renew! The fierce Polydamus
Hath beat down Menon: bastard Margarelon
Hath Doreus prisoner;
And stands colossus-wise, waving his beam,³
Upon the pashed⁴ corpses of the kings
Epistrophus and Cedius: Polixenes is slain;
Amphimachus, and Thoas, deadly hurt;
Patroclus ta'en, or slain; and Palamedes
Sore hurt and bruised: the dreadful Sagittary
Appals our numbers; haste we, Diomed,
To reinforcement, or we perish all.

Enter NESTOR.

Nest. Go, bear Patroclus' body to Achilles;
And bid the snail-pac'd Ajax arm for shame.—
There is a thousand Hectors in the field:
Now here he fights on Galathea his horse,
And there lacks work; anon, he's there afoot,
And there they fly, or die, like scaled skulls⁵
Before the belching whale; then is he yonder,
And there the strawy Greeks, ripe for his edge,
Fall down before him, like the mower's swath:⁶
Here, there, and every where, he leaves, and takes;
Dexterity so obeying appetite,

³ — waving his beam,] i. e. his lance like a weaver's beam,
as Goliath's spear is described.

⁴ — pashed —] i. e. bruised, crushed.

⁵ — scaled skulls —] *Skulls* are great numbers of fishes
swimming together. *Scaled* means here dispersed, put to flight.

⁶ — the mower's swath:] *Swath* is the quantity of grass cut
down by a single stroke of the mower's scythe.

That what he will, he does ; and does so much,
That proof is call'd impossibility.

Enter ULYSSES.

Ulyss. O, courage, courage, princes! great Achilles
Is arming, weeping, cursing, vowing vengeance ;
Patroclus' wounds have rous'd his drowsy blood,
Together with his mangled Myrmidons,
That noseless, handless, hack'd and chipp'd, come
to him,
Crying on Hector. Ajax hath lost a friend,
And foams at mouth, and he is arm'd, and at it,
Roaring for Troilus ; who hath done to-day
Mad and fantastick execution ;
Engaging and redeeming of himself,
With such a careless force, and forceless care,
As if that luck, in very spite of cunning,
Bade him win all.

Enter AJAX.

Ajax. Troilus, thou coward Troilus! [*Exit.*

Dio. Ay, there, there.

Nest. So, so, we draw together.

Enter ACHILLES.

Achil. Where is this Hector?

Come, come, thou boy-queller,⁷ show thy face ;

Know what it is to meet Achilles angry.

Hector ! where's Hector ? I will none but Hector.

[*Exeunt.*

⁷ — *boy-queller,*] i. e. murderer of a boy.

SCENE VI.

Another Part of the Field.

Enter AJAX.

Ajax. Troilus, thou coward Troilus, show thy head!

Enter DIOMEDES.

Dio. Troilus, I say! where's Troilus?

Ajax. What would'st thou?

Dio. I would correct him.

Ajax. Were I the general, thou should'st have my office

Ere that correction:—Troilus, I say! what, Troilus!

Enter TROILUS.

Tro. O traitor Diomed!—turn thy false face,
thou traitor,

And pay thy life thou ow'st me for my horse!

Dio. Ha! art thou there?

Ajax. I'll fight with him alone: stand, Diomed.

Dio. He is my prize, I will not look upon.⁸

Tro. Come both, you cogging Greeks;⁹ have at you both. [*Exeunt, fighting.*]

⁸ — *I will not look upon.*] That is, (as we should now speak) I will not be a *looker-on*.

⁹ — *you cogging Greeks;*] This epithet has no particular propriety in this place, but the author had heard of *Græcia mendax*. JOHNSON.

Surely the epithet had propriety, in respect of Diomedes at least, who had defrauded him of his mistress. Troilus bestows it on both, *unius ob culpam*. A fraudulent man, as I am told, is still called, in the North, a *gainful Greek*. Cicero bears witness

Enter HECTOR.

Hect. Yea, Troilus? O, well fought, my youngest brother!

Enter ACHILLES.

Achil. Now do I see thee:—Ha!—Have at thee, Hector.

Hect. Pause, if thou wilt.

Achil. I do disdain thy courtesy, proud Trojan.
Be happy, that my arms are out of use :
My rest and negligence befriend thee now,
But thou anon shalt hear of me again ;
'Till when, go seek thy fortune. [*Exit.*

Hect. Fare thee well :—
I would have been much more a fresher man,
Had I expected thee.—How now, my brother?

Re-enter TROILUS.

Tro. Ajax hath ta'en Æneas ; Shall it be ?
No, by the flame of yonder glorious heaven,
He shall not carry him ; ' I'll be taken too,
Or bring him off :—Fate, hear me what I say !
I reck not though I end my life to-day. [*Exit.*

Enter one in sumptuous Armour.

Hect. Stand, stand, thou Greek ; thou art a
goodly mark :—
No? wilt thou not?—I like thy armour well ;
I'll frush it,² and unlock the rivets all,

to this character of the ancient Greeks : " Testimoniorum religionem & fidem nunquam ista natio coluit."

Again : " Græcorum ingenia ad fallendum parata sunt."

¹ — carry him :] i. e. prevail over him.

² I'll frush it,] The word *frush* I never found elsewhere, not understand it. Sir T. Hanmer explains it, to *break* or *bruise*.

JOHNSON.

But I'll be master of it:—Wilt thou not, beast,
abide?

Why then, fly on, I'll hunt thee for thy hide.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VII.

The same.

Enter ACHILLES, *with* Myrmidons.

Achil. Come here about me, you my Myrmidons;
Mark what I say.—Attend me where I wheel:
Strike not a stroke, but keep yourselves in breath;
And when I have the bloody Hector found,
Empale him with your weapons round about;
In fellest manner execute your arms:³
Follow me, sirs, and my proceedings eye:—
It is decreed—Hector the great must die. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VIII.

The same.

Enter MENELAUS and PARIS, *fighting*: then
THERSITES.

Ther. The cuckold, and the cuckold-maker are
at it: Now, bull! now, dog! 'Loo, Paris, 'loo!
now my double-henned sparrow! 'loo, Paris, 'loo!
The bull has the game:—ware horns, ho!
[*Exeunt* PARIS and MENELAUS.]

³ — execute *your arms.*] To *execute their arms* is to employ
them; to put them to use.

Enter MARGARELON.

Mar. Turn, slave, and fight.

Ther. What art thou?

Mar. A bastard son of Priam's.

Ther. I am a bastard too; I love bastards: I am a bastard begot, bastard instructed, bastard in mind, bastard in valour, in every thing illegitimate. One bear will not bite another, and wherefore should one bastard? Take heed, the quarrel's most ominous to us: if the son of a whore fight for a whore, he tempts judgment: Farewell, bastard.

Mar. The devil take thee, coward! [*Ereunt.*]

SCENE IX.

Another Part of the Field.

Enter HECTOR.

Hect. Most putrified core, so fair without,
Thy goodly armour thus hath cost thy life.
Now is my day's work done: I'll take good breath:
Rest, sword: thou hast thy fill of blood and death!

[*Puts off his Helmet, and hangs his Shield
behind him.*]

Enter ACHILLES and Myrmidons.

Achil. Look, Hector, how the sun begins to set;
How ugly night comes breathing at his heels:
Even with the vail and dark'ning of the sun,
To close the day up, Hector's life is done.

Hect. I am unarm'd; forego this vantage, Greek.

Achil. Strike, fellows, strike; this is the man I
seek. [*HECTOR falls.*]

So, Ilion, fall thou next; now, Troy, sink down;
Here lies thy heart, thy sinews, and thy bone.—

On, Myrmidons; and cry you all amain,
Achilles hath the mighty Hector slain.

[*A Retreat sounded.*

Hark! a retreat upon our Grecian part.

Myr. The Trojan trumpets sound the like, my lord.

Achil. The dragon wing of night o'erspreads the earth,

And, stickler like,⁴ the armies separate.

My half-suppl'd sword, that frankly would have fed,
 Pleas'd with this dainty bit, thus goes to bed.—

[*Sheaths his sword.*

Come, tie his body to my horse's tail;

Along the field I will the Trojan trail. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE X.

The same.

Enter AGAMEMNON, AJAX, MENELAUS, NESTOR, DIOMEDES, and Others, marching. Shouts within.

Agam. Hark! hark! what shout is that?

Nest.

Peace, drums.

[*Within.*]

Achilles!

Achilles! Hector's slain! Achilles!

Dio. The bruit is—Hector's slain, and by Achilles.

Ajax. If it be so, yet bragless let it be;

Great Hector was as good a man as he.

Agam. March patiently along:—Let one be sent
 To pray Achilles see us at our tent.—

⁴ *And, stickler-like,*] *Sticklers* are arbitrators, judges, or, as called in some places, sidesmen. At every wrestling in Cornwall, before the *games* begin, a certain number of *sticklers* are chosen, who regulate the proceedings, and determine every dispute. *Stickler* (*stic-kle-er*) is immediately from the verb *stickle*, to interfere, to take part with, to busy one's self in any matter.

If in his death the gods have us befriended,
Great Troy is ours, and our sharp wars are ended.
[*Exeunt, marching.*]

SCENE XI.

Another Part of the Field.

Enter ÆNEAS and Trojans.

Æne. Stand, ho! yet are we masters of the field:
Never go home; here starve we out the night.

Enter TROILUS.

Tro. Hector is slain.

All. Hector?—The gods forbid!

Tro. He's dead; and at the murderer's horse's tail,
In beastly sort, dragg'd through the shameful field.—
Frown on, you heavens, effect your rage with speed!
Sit, gods, upon your thrones, and smile at Troy!
I say, at once let your brief plagues be mercy,
And linger not our sure destructions on!

Æne. My lord, you do discomfort all the host.

Tro. You understand me not, that tell me so:
I do not speak of flight, of fear, of death;
But dare all imminence, that gods and men,
Address their dangers in. Hector is gone!
Who shall tell Priam so, or Hecuba?
Let him, that will a screech-owl aye be call'd,
Go in to Troy, and say there—Hector's dead:
There is a word will Priam turn to stone;
Make wells and Niobes of the maids and wives,
Cold statues of the youth; and, in a word,
Scare Troy out of itself. But, march, away:
Hector is dead; there is no more to say.
Stay yet;—You vile abominable tents,

Thus proudly pight⁵ upon our Phrygian plains,
Let Titan rise as early as he dare,
I'll through and through you!—And thou, great-
siz'd coward!

No space of earth shall sunder our two hates ;
I'll haunt thee like a wicked conscience still,
That mouldeth goblins swift as frenzy thoughts.—
Strike a free march to Troy!—with comfort go :
Hope of revenge shall hide our inward woe.⁶
[*Exeunt ÆNEAS and Trojans.*

As TROILUS is going out, enter, from the other side,
PANDARUS.

Pan. But hear you, hear you !

Tro. Hence, broker lackey ! ignominy and shame
Pursue thy life, and live aye with thy name.

[*Exit TROILUS.*

Pan. A goodly med'cine for my aching bones!—
O world ! world ! world ! thus is the poor agent
despised ! O traitors and bawds, how earnestly are
you set a' work, and how ill requited ! Why should
our endeavour be so loved, and the performance so

⁵ ——— *pight* —] i. e. pitched, fixed. The obsolete preterite
and participle passive of to *pitch*.

⁶ ——— *with comfort go :*

Hope of revenge shall hide our inward woe.] This couplet
affords a full and natural close of the play ; and though I once
thought differently, I must now declare my firm belief that Shak-
speare designed it should end here, and that what follows is either
a subsequent and injudicious restoration from the elder drama,
mentioned in p. 391, or the nonsense of some wretched buffoon,
who represented Pandarus. When the hero of the scene was not
only alive, but on the stage, our author would scarce have trusted
the conclusion of his piece to a subordinate character, whom he
had uniformly held up to detestation. It is still less probable that
he should have wound up his story with a stupid outrage to de-
cency, and a deliberate insult on his audience.—But in several
other parts of this drama I cannot persuade myself that I have
been reading Shakspeare. STEEVENS.

loathed? what verse for it? what instance for it?—
Let me see:—

Full merrily the humble-bee doth sing,
Till he hath lost his honey, and his sting:
And being once subdued in armed tail,
Sweet honey and sweet notes together fail.—
Good traders in the flesh, set this in your painted
cloths.

As many as be here of pander's hall,
Your eyes, half out, weep out at Pandar's fall:
Or, if you cannot weep, yet give some groans,
Though not for me, yet for your aching bones.
Brethren, and sisters, of the hold-door trade,
Some two months hence my will shall here be made:
It should be now, but that my fear is this,—
Some galled goose of Winchester would hiss:
Till then I'll sweat, and seek about for eases;
And, at that time, bequeath you my diseases.

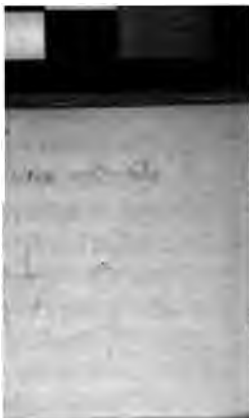
[*Exit.*]

⁷ This play is more correctly written than most of Shakspeare's compositions, but it is not one of those in which either the extent of his views or elevation of his fancy is fully displayed. As the story abounded with materials, he has exerted little invention; but he has diversified his characters with great variety, and preserved them with great exactness. His vicious characters disgust but cannot corrupt, for both Cressida and Pandarus are detested and condemned. The comick characters seem to have been the favourites of the writer; they are of the superficial kind, and exhibit more of manners than nature; but they are copiously filled and powerfully impressed. Shakspeare has in his story followed, for the greater part, the old book of Caxton, which was then very popular; but the character of Thersites, of which it makes no mention, is a proof that this play was written after Chapman had published his version of Homer. JOHNSON.

END OF VOLUME SIXTH.



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